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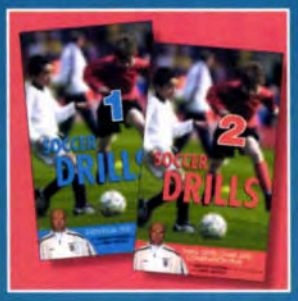

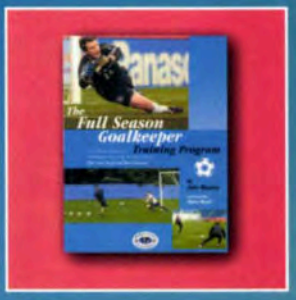

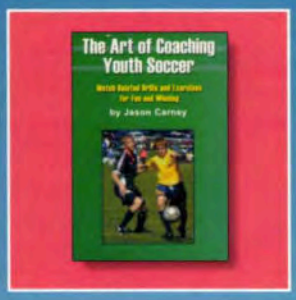

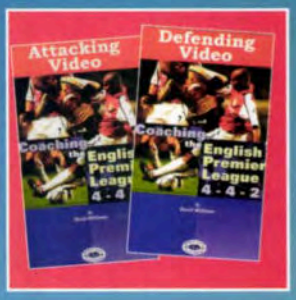

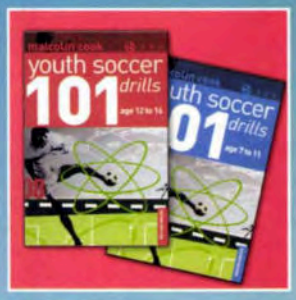

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DECEMBER 2004
WORLD SOCCER

comment

CHELSEA dominate proceedings this month. We interviewed all the key figures for our report (page 26) on the Russian revolution at Stamford Bridge: agents, coaches, players past and present, chief executives, politicians. Everyone, of course, except Roman Abramovich. His public relations minders say they try to create a "zone of privacy" for their boss and his family. All interview requests are denied. And yet as long as Abramovich refuses to face up to media questioning of his financial affairs, the whispers will continue.

A similar attitude is being adopted towards agents. Not surprisingly, like virtually every other Premier League club, Chelsea have refused to divulge the payments made to middlemen during transfers that have so far totalled more than £200million. Chelsea are now a private, de-listed company. They have no obligation to publicise their accounts.

Yet there is growing pressure within football for greater transparency from clubs in their dealings with agents. Manchester United, curiously, have led the way, but only because they were forced to open their books by the club's largest shareholders, J P McManus and John Magnier, who knew that agent payments could be used as a stick to beat Alex Ferguson in the row over the racehorse Rock of Gibraltar. United's recently published figures made for fascinating, if alarming, reading. But it is the lack of knowledge about other clubs' finances that fuels the suspicion about agents and the money that they are taking out of the game. How can we take clubs seriously on the issue of payments for players on international duty when they are so reluctant to open up their own finances for scrutiny?

Privately, Chelsea insist that they spend a lot less on agents than United, but somehow I doubt whether the agents who have had dealings with Mr Abramovich will be going hungry this winter.

Further down the foodchain, the Football League must be applauded for its decision to force clubs to publish details of payments to agents. It is a further sign of how hard it will be for the major clubs to resist the calls for greater openness.

It works both ways, of course. The media are also at fault. The lack of urgency from the press in investigating agents is just one of the things that needs to change. But while agents remain one of the best sources of stories, and clubs so tight-fisted in denying access to players, the press are not going to bite one of the few hands that still feeds them.

Don't forget that there is still a chance to vote for your player, manager and team of the year in our annual awards, either via our website, www.worldsoccer.com, or by posting the coupon on page 90. We'll publish the results of what looks set to be a close-run vote next month.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

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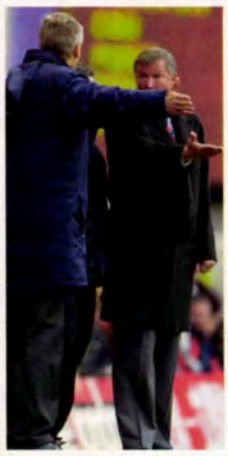
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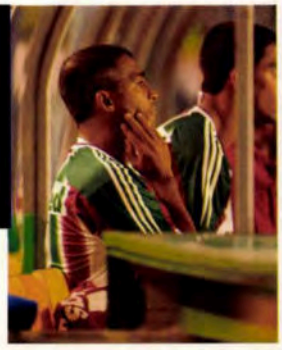
HOT AND COLD
ARGENTINA: Jose Pekerman's first games in charge of the national side provided ammunition for both his fans and critics. **Page 20**

ROMARIO FIGHTS ON
BRAZIL: Former international striker Romario, now 38, vowed to carry on playing, despite being sacked by Fluminense. **Page 56**



COVER STORY

INSIDE STORY: CHELSEA

World Soccer writers report on the first 500 days of Roman Abramovich's revolution at Stamford Bridge. Plus Jose Mourinho interviewed.

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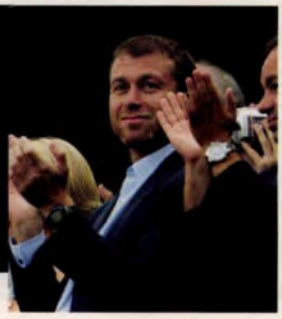


VOGTS EXITS

SCOTLAND: Berti Vogts resigned as national coach after the side's poor start to the World Cup qualifying campaign. **Page 51**

VAN GAAL QUITS TROUBLED AJAX

HOLLAND: Louis Van Gaal stepped down as technical director of Ajax following a dispute with coach Ronald Koeman over the future direction of the club. **Page 48**

MAIER SACKED

GERMANY: Sepp Maier was fired as the national team's goalkeeping coach for criticising Jens Lehmann's claims to be Germany's first-choice. **Page 46**

GREAT LEAP BACKWARDS

CHINA: The FA is facing increasing pressure to act to improve the domestic game, which is beset by problems on and off the pitch. **Page 22**

HOMAGE TO CATALONIA

SPAIN: The tributes have been flooding in to Barcelona, whose spectacular attacking football has delighted and surprised many people. **Page 18**

DEATHS HIGHLIGHT DISORGANISATION

AFRICA: At least seven people were killed at stadiums during the recent round of World Cup qualifying matches. **Page 60**

AL ITTIHAD MARCH ON

SAUDI ARABIA: Al Ittihad gave Saudi football a boost by reaching the Final of the Asian Champions League. **Page 62**

Arsenal announce that their new stadium, currently under construction, will be named after sponsors Emirates as part of a £90million deal

● 05/10/04

The Czech Republic close the gap on World Cup qualifying group leaders Romania after beating them 1-0 in Prague

● 09/10/04

David Beckham celebrates scoring England's second goal in the 2-0 victory over Wales at Old Trafford

● 09/10/04

HEADLINERS

ANDRES D'ALESSANDRO

Globe-trotting midfielder leading Wolfsburg's charge up Bundesliga table

ANDRES D'ALESSANDRO IS one of the most outstanding young talents Argentina has produced since Diego Maradona. He has been hidden away, comparatively speaking, in the unfashionable core of the Bundesliga. But that has all changed since Wolfsburg emerged – to their own surprise – at the top of the table.

Without anyone else realising it outside 'Volkswagenville', D'Alessandro has been one of the busiest players in the world this year. He was spared, last season, the high-profile pressure of European competition but compensated with trips back to South America for the early-starting World Cup qualifiers. This summer alone he packed in one international friendly, five Copa America ties (Argentina lost on penalties to Brazil in the Final), six Olympic outings (Argentina beat Paraguay 1-0 to win the gold medal for the first time) and one World Cup qualifier. In all, 13 games in a non-stop travel schedule of around 40,000 miles lasting three months.

Finally, D'Alessandro returned to training for his bread-and-butter German job in mid-September. Two days later he developed flu-type symptoms.

"I was not surprised," said coaching aide Ulrich Bode. "There are many players whose mental attitude is sometimes too much for their physical strength. They push themselves beyond where their body is able to go, physically. A few days' rest, then a gentle wind-up again in training and he should be OK. But now this has happened we know to keep a special eye on D'Alessandro so he keeps within his limits."

Holding the 23-year-old back has not proved easy. Winning Olympic gold has been like an injection of adrenalin. "I have been lucky enough to win things all through my career," he says. "I won the Argentinian championship twice with River Plate and the World Youth Cup in 2001. But the Olympic Games was a dream. Now it's come true."

The icing on the Athens cake was a phone call from his great hero, Maradona, from the hospital in Buenos Aires where he was undergoing detox. "Amazing," says D'Alessandro. "To have him call me and congratulate me was an honour."

The next challenge for D'Alessandro is an awkward one. Wolfsburg are not in the Champions League, not even in the UEFA Cup. Their prospects of staying at the pinnacle of the Bundesliga and reaching the first are slim and of reaching the second open to question. The club are hardly a base for a potential leader of Argentina's World Cup campaign.

'I love football and I will go anywhere, any time to play. My schedule is not as bad as some'

"It's a quiet life here," says D'Alessandro. "It's not hard to live and play football because it gives me a chance to help my family back in Buenos Aires – even though I don't get the chance to see them too often. My roots are very important to me. That's why the only music you'll hear in my home here is Argentinian."

D'Alessandro knows that the Champions League might help him raise the level of his game still further, and Wolfsburg know that, having signed him for £6million last year to a seven-year contract, they stand to make a significant profit.

In the meantime League and Cup matches plus World Cup trips back to South America represent the schedule ahead. "I love football and I will go anywhere, any time to play," he says. "My schedule is not as bad as some, you know."

Keir Radnedge

Irish players applaud their fans for their support after the 0-0 draw with France in Paris

● 09/10/04

Darren Fletcher reflects on Scotland's 1-0 home defeat by Norway

● 09/10/04

Sweden secure a comfortable 3-0 victory over Hungary in Stockholm

● 09/10/04

ARSENE WENGER

Arsenal manager hints at EPO use

ARSENE WENGER, in an interview on Belgian television, voiced suspicions the banned drug EPO is being used in football to improve players' endurance.

"We have had some players come to us at Arsenal from abroad and their red blood cell count has been abnormally high," he said. "It makes you wonder. There are clubs who dope players without them knowing. The club might say they were being injected with vitamins, and the player would not necessarily know it was something different."

Wenger's comments will renew calls for blood testing of players in a bid to detect EPO.

SERGINHO

Sao Caetano defender collapses and dies during a Brazilian championship game

BRAZILIAN Serginho, 30, died in hospital after a heart attack while playing for his club Sao Caetano in a First Division match against Sao Paulo.

Serginho – real name Paulo Sergio de Oliveira Silva – collapsed in the 14th minute of the second half and was taken to hospital, where he died.

It was subsequently confirmed that tests were carried out on the Sao Caetano players early this year and that Serginho was discovered to have had a heart problem.

It is not clear, however, whether the severity of the problem had been underestimated, or whether both club and player were fully aware of the risks of him playing on.

Notes & quotes

"Every day there was some problem or another. Players and coaches come and go so fast at Inter. They will never win anything like that."

Italy centre-back Fabio Cannavaro reveals his pleasure at quitting Inter for Juventus in the close season.

"If the match had been held at the Stade de France, I wouldn't have hung around. I would have got straight out of there, angry and irritated."

Robert Pires, substituted at half-time in France's 2-0 World Cup qualifying win in Cyprus, continues to hit out at *Les Bleus* coach Raymond Domenech.

Mr Angry...Robert Pires

"Not many international coaches put their faith in unemployed players."

Greek national team boss Otto Rehhagel reflects on Vassilis Tsiartas coming off the bench to strike home a free-kick equaliser in a 1-1 World Cup draw in the Ukraine. Tsiartas is unattached after leaving AEK Athens in the summer.

"Romario must be careful a brilliant career does not come to an unfortunate end."

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira advises 38-year-old Fluminense striker Romario to retire rather than move on to Vasco da Gama

Andorra players celebrate the goal by midfielder Marc Bernaus, the only one of the World Cup tie against Macedonia, that secured their first ever competitive victory

● 13/10/04

Chile hold Argentina to a goalless draw in their World Cup qualifier in Santiago

● 13/10/04

Denmark, playing with 10 men for most of the match, draw 1-1 at home to Turkey

● 13/10/04

WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville

...on Boris Johnson's Hillsborough blunder... Beckham's captaincy issue...the case for Wright-Phillips...the late, great Oscar Heisserer...Germany's keeper crisis...grandmother tales...Huth's failed push

MUCH play has been made of Conservative Party leader Michael Howard ordering his Shadow Minister for the Arts, Boris Johnson, to do penance in Liverpool. More to the point, surely, was that if journalism is to be sacrosanct, then it should not be slovenly, inaccurate and insensitive. For such was the deplorable tenor of the leading article about Liverpool in *The Spectator*, which Johnson edits.

Whether or not the lamentations for the poor hostage, Ken Bigley, so cruelly and brutally beheaded in Iraq, were excessive may perhaps be debated, though hardly so close to the appalling event. But not to have absorbed the manifest facts of the Hillsborough disaster for 15 years, not to know that the Taylor Report completely exonerated Liverpool supporters from the malignant charges that they had caused the horror by drunkenly forcing their way in, not even to realise the sheer horrific extent of the catastrophe, asserting that about 50 people had died rather than 96, was unforgivable.

Whether Johnson wrote the editorial himself is irrelevant, since as editor he sanctioned it. I'm sorry to write this, since I had always found the man a sympathetic, even endearing figure, adding so often to the harmless stock of public pleasure. Not now. I cannot believe that his political career can be anything but over. He's altogether too loose a cannon.

I only wish Johnson had been at San Siro as I was, four days after the disaster, to hear the Milan fans pay tribute before a European Cup tie by singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*. It was unbearably moving.

DAVID BECKHAM, as we now know better than ever, will never be Brain of Britain. But his fatuities over that self-inflicted yellow card during the World Cup qualifier against Wales hardly called for Sepp Blatter to put in his pennyworth. Blatter the moralist. That was a good one. Should one laugh or cry?

The FIFA president said: "This is the captain of the English team and he should have acted in a better way." Other pundits even suggested that Beckham be stripped of the armband because of his behaviour.

'For Johnson not to have absorbed the facts of the Hillsborough disaster was unforgivable'

Yet wasn't far too much fuss made about Beckham's England captaincy? As if it really matters! Italy and Poland have had the habit of giving the armband simply to the player with the most caps. Indeed, years ago, Italy's Fiorentina full-backs, Ardico Magnini and Sergio Cervato, both had exactly the same number of caps, so the armband went to Magnini on the strength that he had made one B appearance more!

Now and again there is a captain of substance and influence, a Tony Adams perhaps. But, overall, it's the manager or the coach who calls the shots.

THE England team and Sven Goran Eriksson were surely overpraised after their World Cup qualifying win away to Azerbaijan in Baku. Whatever the conditions, a 1-0 victory against so obscure a team was hardly a triumph.

Jermaine Jenas was praised for his contribution on the right flank, and Eriksson for picking him – and it was certainly a better, bolder choice than the limited Owen Hargreaves. But in those rainy, windswept, slippery conditions, wasn't it the ideal time to launch Shaun Wright-Phillips, whose pace, control and initiative might have caused havoc?

OSCAR HEISSERER died recently at the ripe old age of 89. One of the great French internationals of his time, the Alsace-born inside-forward flourished in the 1938 World Cup in France, scored a memorable goal against England at Wembley in May 1945, and continued to excel for another 10 years.

Above all, he showed heroic courage during the war, when the occupying Nazis tried to persuade

Guatemala enjoy their crucial World Cup qualifying win over Honduras

● 13/10/04

Iran players celebrate coming from behind to beat Qatar 3-2 in Doha

● 13/10/04

Chelsea suffer their first defeat of the season, 1-0 at Manchester City

● 16/10/04

him to desert his own club, Strasbourg, and play for one they themselves set up there. Despite ferocious pressure, Heisserer held out. And when Germany's manager, Sepp Herberger, came all the way to Strasbourg to try to persuade him to play for the Germans, he refused that, too.

The Wembley international is recognised by the French, but isn't an official game in England's records. Yet it signalled a splendid achievement by France after five years of German occupation, facing a very powerful England team full of such stars as Frank Swift in goal and Tommy Lawton up front. Heisserer equalised in the 89th minute to make the final score 2-2.

On retirement, he became a manager for a while, but gave up, admitting that when players gainsaid him, he was exasperated!

SCARCELY had Germany's new manager, Jurgen Klinsmann, sacked his celebrated goalkeeping coach Sepp Maier for criticising keeper Oliver Kahn in favour of Jens Lehmann, when Lehmann dropped two clangers that cost Arsenal a Champions League victory away to Panathinaikos.

Arsene Wenger, of course, loyally defended him, as is his wont, but it is surely significant that, every now and then, Arsenal's name is associated with other goalkeepers.

Kahn was himself guilty of a costly mistake for Bayern Munich in a Champions League game against Juventus the night before Lehmann's blunder. Truth to tell, neither goalkeeper is remotely as reliable as Maier was. The 1974 World Cup winner may have lacked tact but seems to have been somewhat harshly treated.

GOING to one's grandmother's funeral has for generations been a standing joke when major football matches occur and employees are hell bent on taking time off to watch them. But life surely imitated art recently when Rio Ferdinand begged off Manchester United's European trip to Prague on those very grounds – only to be snapped coming out of a London nightclub at half past four in the morning! Maybe his grandmother worked there.

'Huth has been in tremendous form for Germany, yet what future is there for him at Chelsea?'

AFTER Chelsea's victory over the lively CSKA Moscow at Stamford Bridge, Jose Mourinho reflected that he might even try German centre-back Robert Huth as a striker, in the absence of so many other forwards. Yet when Portuguese centre-back Ricardo Carvalho had been given a rest against CSKA, Huth did not even get on the bench, Carvalho's berth being handed to William Gallas.

Huth, who is said to have the hardest shot of any Chelsea player, has been in tremendous form for Germany, yet what future is there for him at Chelsea? One day you read that he wants to get away, the next that he is keen to stay. For his own sake, it would be a good thing were he to leave Stamford Bridge when the transfer window opens again in January.

As for marginalised midfielder Scott Parker, who was given a few minutes against CSKA, Mourinho announced that he meant to keep him. I don't think that is very news for Parker.

Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com

Notes & quotes

"I'm not a grandfather yet. I can still last a full 90 minutes."
Cagliari veteran Gianfranco Zola after scoring his first Serie A goal in eight years.

"We want to sign him but we need to wait for other developments."
Shakhtar Donetsk's Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu on the possibility of recruiting Adrian Mutu after he served a likely drugs ban.

Ever the optimist...Mircea Lucescu

"Doping with EPO makes absolute sense in football. It aids endurance. An outfield player runs up to 10 kilometres per game."
Professor Arnd Kruger of Gottingen University in Germany agrees with Arsene Wenger that EPO is a threat to the game.

"How has football come to this? The truth is that this matter troubles me a lot."
Johan Cruyff fails to see why Barcelona, his former club, have just attempted to buy 12-year-old Argentinian Erik Lamela from River Plate.

Thomas Doll is unveiled as the new coach of Hamburg after the sacking of Klaus Toppmoller

● 18/10/04

Juventus beat Bayern Munich 1-0 in front of a crowd of just 18,000 in Turin

● 19/10/04

Michael Owen celebrates scoring his first goal for Real Madrid

● 19/10/04

Milan hold out to beat Champions League group rivals Barcelona 1-0

● 20/10/04

WS WORLD SOCCER **Paul Gardner**

The great goals mystery

FIFA's statistics don't add up

PASS THE ASPIRIN, please. I have a severe headache – brought on by trying to make sense of an elaborate statistical study of goalscoring published in *FIFA Magazine*.

I'm no great fan of statistics, and maths intimidates me, so at least part of the headache is self-induced. Nevertheless, there is a hard-to-grasp element of the illogical, even the absurd, that runs through Marius Schneider's two-part article.

For a start: Are we supposed to stagger back in wonder when we see Australia in first place in the 'best attack' category – ahead of Brazil and Spain and Holland?

Uncontrollable hilarity is a more likely response as one recalls a couple of April 2001 World Cup qualifying scorelines: Australia 22 Tonga 0, followed two days later by Australia 31 Samoa 0.

The inclusion of these ludicrous scores does not encourage one to take what follows too seriously. But that would be a mistake. There is a lot of interesting stuff here – it is the conclusions drawn that send one's eyebrows skywards. Seems I was quite wrong to be dismayed in 1990 when the World Cup produced only 2.1 goals per game, the lowest average ever.

The "gripes were unfounded" because FIFA's statistics showed there was no "dramatic fall in the goal average". Well, who said anything about dramatic?

The depression of goalscoring rates has been gnawing away for decades. By 2000, there was a growing feeling more needed to be done to counter what was starting to look like a relentless trend. Such concern cannot be silenced merely by pointing to stats.

To set against the FIFA case, here is my version of the same stats, and my interpretation. The first nine World Cups, from 1930 to 1970 inclusive, averaged 3.7 goals per game. The next eight, from 1974 to 2002, averaged 2.6.

Those figures "dramatically" contradict any attempt to make out there has been no fall in the scoring rate. "It is dangerous," says Schneider, "to generalise about the state of international football based on the data gathered during major tournaments."

Agreed. To address that issue for a moment, let's take a look at club football, say in England. Over the 18 seasons between 1950 and 1968, goals in the First Division averaged out at 3.36 per game. In the 36 seasons since the average has never reached 3. The 2003-04 Premiership average was 2.66. In Italy – which had the same average as England in 2004 – you have to go back to 1951 to find an average above 3.

Goals have disappeared – almost one per game. Both World Cup and club stats tell the same story.

You can say that represents the game's development and the stats are a true reflection. No doubt, but what the stats cannot show are the ramifications of reduced scoring: a more defensive, boring, physical game squeezing out the creative player and the specialist scorer. A game losing its artistry, in short.

The abysmally awful 1990 World Cup Final between West Germany and Argentina gave us a clear view of what the future could look like. Hence the outcry...and the ongoing but not overly-successful attempts by FIFA to tweak the rules in favour of attacking play.

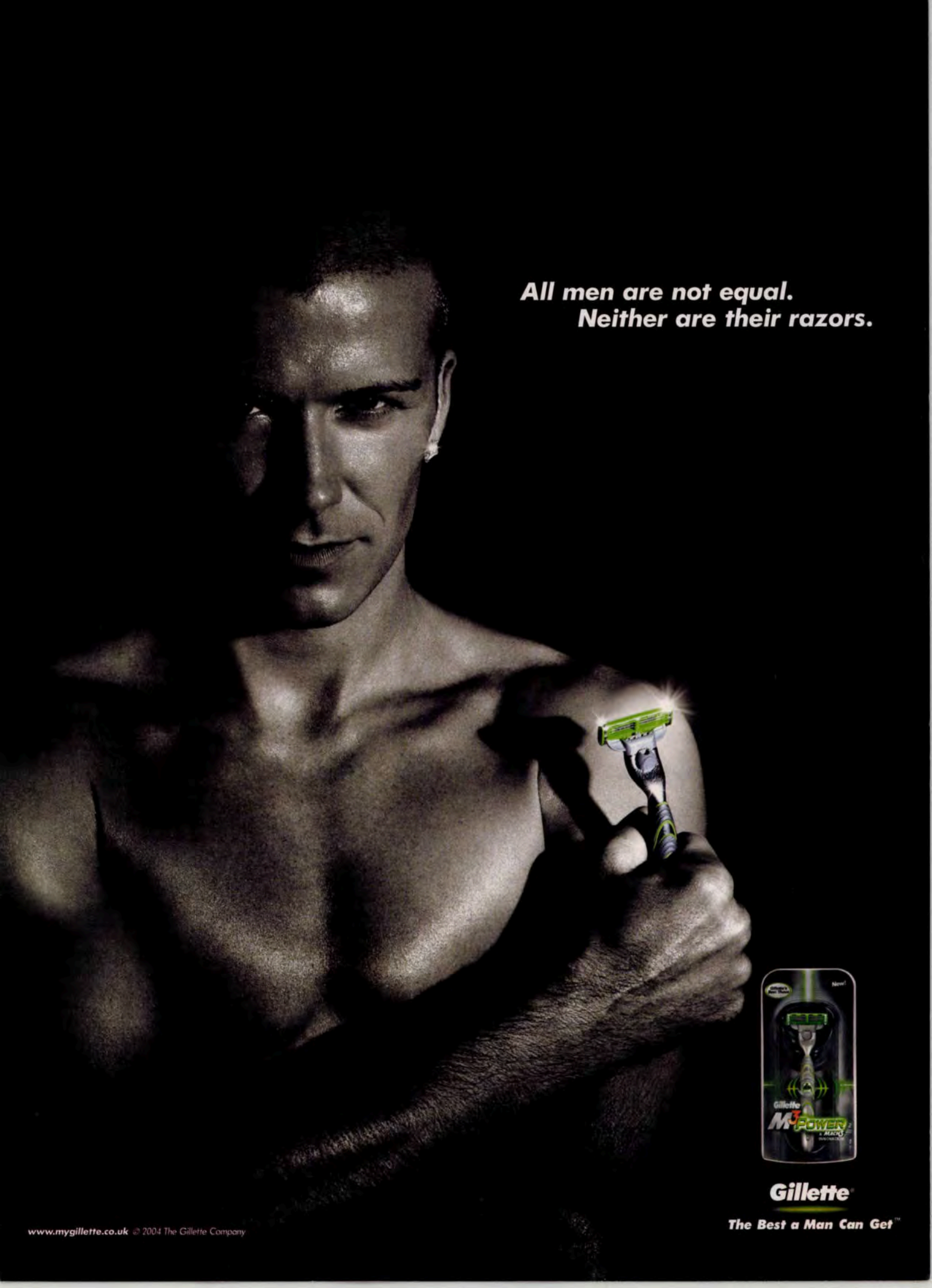
"Another issue preoccupying the critics," says Schneider, "is the number of 0-0 draws," though his stats show that 'only' 10 per cent of games end up scoreless. But the basic criticism is not about 0-0 draws, it is about low scoring. Look no further than Schneider's article to discover that over 50 per cent of all games feature only two, or fewer, goals – and this time the 'only' is surely justified.

There is no logical reason why football should be dominated by defenders. It would be a much livelier game if not – as Schneider points out when referring to the 3-plus goals-per-game average in the Under-17 World Cup "with its open, attacking football undeterred by restrictive tactics".

That observation is backed up by a look at Brazil's stats. No surprise – they top the scoring table. In the best-defence table, they are not in the top 10. No surprise there, either. But Brazil top the 'most effective' category.

Brazil win much more than any other nation. As they also entertain much more than any other team, these are the most wonderfully positive stats I can think of. They put the statistical seal of approval on scoring as the way to win games. Suddenly, my headache has lifted!

'What the stats can't show are the ramifications of reduced scoring ...a game losing its artistry'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Benfica beat Heerenveen 4-2 in Lisbon on the first matchday of the new UEFA Cup group stage

● 21/10/04

Lazio and Villarreal draw 1-1 in Rome in their UEFA Cup encounter

● 21/10/04

Ruud Van Nistelrooy celebrates scoring the controversial penalty that put Man United 1-0 up against Arsenal at Old Trafford

● 24/10/04

Inter draw 2-2 with Serie A's surprise package Lecce

● 27/10/04

WS WORLD SOCCER Jim Holden

Charisma versus connections

Platini could be challenged by Thompson in battle for UEFA's top job

THE battle for the soul of European soccer is taking shape; a fight that will include footballing legends like Franz Beckenbauer and Michel Platini as well as anonymous committee powerbrokers like Geoff Thompson, the English FA chairman, and Dutch FA president Dr Mathieu Sprengers.

But anyone who believes the fight to become the next UEFA president in 2006 will be a shoo-in for one of the former players should think again. You can't win this game with a feint of the hips and a fierce shot lashed into goal.

Charisma may secure some votes. But vital issues like the future direction of the elitist Champions League and protecting youth development will be far more significant.

In England there is often scorn for Thompson, who has a deeply negative public image due to a perceived lack of leadership through various crises, most notably the resignation of FA chief executive Mark Palios in the wake of a kiss-and-tell sex saga.

But Thompson is extremely highly regarded at UEFA. Domestic problems count for little against his strength of work in administration, which is unseen by the public.

Held in equal esteem is his great friend Sprengers, who as well as his role with the Dutch FA has also been UEFA treasurer for the past four years. Either man will be viewed as a continuity candidate to succeed UEFA president Lennart Johansson, who must retire in spring 2006.

They would, for example, provide solid support for new regulations, under discussion, that will insist clubs have at least five 'home-grown' players in their 16-man squads for domestic league and European club competition. This rule is designed to force clubs into better youth development, and to have less reliance on buying star players in the transfer market.

It is, in my view, a wholly admirable initiative. But not surprisingly it is being treated with a certain scepticism by some of the major European clubs. They fear it might weaken their teams.

What would be the stance of Beckenbauer in the face of club hostility – particularly when he has for so long been the guiding force of Bayern Munich, one of the key members of the elite G-14 group?

The prospect of Platini taking power provokes spectacularly divided opinion. Some within the UEFA hierarchy consider him to be a dangerous contender, with a habit of promoting controversial ideas like scrapping the Champions League and UEFA Cup and replacing them with a single 256-team straight knockout cup.

I've heard this notion condemned as "crazy" from within UEFA. Yet it is not without merit. It would break the elite clubs' stranglehold on the vast wealth generated by the Champions League by giving many more teams access to the competition. Up to 10 clubs each season from Spain, Italy, Germany and England would enter this revamped European Cup – and all could aspire to riches and glory.

Platini's scheme could reverse the damaging trend towards the concentration of money and success within just a few clubs in each country. Will the major nations back him? Unlikely. But he has been campaigning quietly in eastern Europe and built up strong support from nations who feel marginalised.

The greatest danger of the Platini Cup, opponents say, is that it could prompt a breakaway European League by the elite clubs. But maybe the meek will finally call the bluff of the mighty or maybe compromise and vote for the steady powerbrokers.

Beckenbauer's entry into the affair has further confused matters. He proclaimed he was flattered by the alleged support of FIFA president Sepp Blatter, and would be honoured to consider standing in 2006 once his job organising the World Cup in Germany was completed.

Der Kaiser's words were followed by a story that UEFA officialdom's preferred candidate was Platini – a suggestion swiftly denied by headquarters. So was any notion that top footballers would be backed for the big job ahead of committee men.

So it's now all as clear as mud. They either love or hate Platini. They are cautious of Beckenbauer, particularly if he is seen as Blatter's man. And they have some safe hands as an alternative.

Only a fool would predict the outcome. But it remains quite within the bounds of possibility that 'safe hands' Thompson will emerge as the key man. Keepers so often win the shoot-outs, don't they?

'Thompson's domestic problems count for little against the strength of his work in administration'

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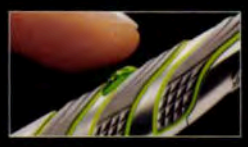

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Chelsea sack Adrian Mutu after his failed drugs test

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Liverpool's French international striker Djibril Cisse is ruled out for the rest of the season after he breaks a leg in a League game at Blackburn Rovers

● 30/10/04

Los Angeles Galaxy beat Colorado Rapids 2-0 to reach the MLS western conference Final

● 30/10/04

Rangers thrash Aberdeen 5-0 to close the gap on Celtic

● 31/10/04

ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

TEAM OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2004

La Gazzetta dello Sport · don balon · kicker · Sport-Express · Foot Magazine · World Soccer · A Bola · Voetbal International · Fanatik · Tips bladet

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (Por)
Buffon (Juventus); Ferdinand (Manchester United), Terry (Chelsea), Cole (Arsenal); Reyes (Arsenal), Deco (Barcelona), Juninho (Lyon), Ronaldinho (Barcelona); Henry (Arsenal), Shevchenko (Milan), Adriano (Internazionale)

FANATIK (Tur)
Buffon (Juventus); Puyol (Barcelona), Terry (Chelsea), Cole (Arsenal); Schneider (Bayer Leverkusen), Gattuso (Milan), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Nedved (Juventus); Owen (Real Madrid), Rooney (Manchester United), Adriano (Internazionale)

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (Ita)
Cech (Chelsea); Thuram (Juventus), Toure (Arsenal), Terry (Chelsea); Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United), Julio Baptista (Sevilla), Essien (Lyon), Nedved (Juventus); Rooney (Manchester United), Eto'o (Barcelona), Ronaldinho (Barcelona)

SPORT EXPRESS (Rus)
Buffon (Juventus); G Neville (Manchester United), Terry (Chelsea), Nesta (Milan), Zambrotta (Juventus); Lampard (Chelsea), Deco (Barcelona), Krzynowek (Bayer Leverkusen); Owen (Real Madrid), Adriano (Internazionale), Shevchenko (Milan)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Hol)
Buffon (Juventus); Terry (Chelsea), Cannavaro (Juventus), Ferdinand (Manchester United); Cambiasso (Internazionale), Xavi (Barcelona), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Nedved (Juventus); Henry (Arsenal), Adriano (Internazionale), Eto'o (Barcelona)

DON BALON (Spa)
Buffon (Juventus); Hinkel (Stuttgart), Terry (Chelsea), Puyol (Barcelona), Cole (Arsenal); Essien (Lyon), Julio Baptista (Sevilla), Deco (Barcelona); Cacau (Stuttgart), Adriano (Internazionale), Shevchenko (Milan)

FOOT (Blg)
Buffon (Juventus); Soldo (Stuttgart), Cannavaro (Juventus), Campbell (Arsenal); Thiam (Wolfsburg), Essien (Lyon), Osman (Everton), Ronaldinho (Barcelona); Adriano (Internazionale), Eto'o (Barcelona), Henry (Arsenal)

KICKER (Ger)
Cech (Chelsea); Zebina (Juventus), Ferdinand (Manchester United), Nesta (Milan); Ljungberg (Arsenal), Gravesen (Everton), Kaka (Milan), Krzynowek (Bayer Leverkusen); Shevchenko (Milan), Eto'o (Barcelona), Adebayor (Monaco)

TIPS BLADET (Den)
Cech (Chelsea); Ferdinand (Manchester United), Terry (Chelsea), Cannavaro (Juventus); Asamoah (Schalke), Xavi (Barcelona), Kaka (Milan), Ronaldinho (Barcelona); Adriano (Internazionale), Eto'o (Barcelona), Shevchenko (Milan)

WORLD SOCCER (UK)
Cech (Chelsea); Cassetti (Lecce), Ferdinand (Manchester United), Van Bronckhorst (Barcelona); Xavi (Barcelona), Nedved (Juventus), Julio Baptista (Sevilla), Luis Garcia (Liverpool); Shevchenko (Milan), Adriano (Internazionale), Owen (Real Madrid)

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Rough and ready

Marcello Lippi's first three months as national coach have not gone smoothly

PADDY AGNEW in Rome

IN A MONTH WHEN the first definitive indications about the 2004-05 Serie A title contest emerged – and they had a familiar black and white look about them – it may be worth first reflecting on the initial impact of Marcello Lippi's new-look national team.

Appointed to succeed Giovanni Trapattoni in the wake of Italy's abysmal first round exit at Euro 2004, Lippi has returned a mixed balance sheet at the end of his first three months. On the plus side are his World Cup qualifying results, with the three wins and one defeat putting Italy out in front in Group 5. On the negative side is the obvious consideration that, so far at least, Lippi has yet to identify the team that will take him all the way on the rocky road to Germany 2006.

After the disappointment of a 2-0 defeat by Iceland in Lippi's debut in a mid-August friendly, Italy got their World Cup campaign off to a positive start when coming from behind in Palermo in mid-September to beat Norway 2-1, thanks to goals from debutant Daniele De Rossi and another new face, Luca Toni.

The battling, aggressive Italian attitude against Norway augured well. Alas, the best thing about the next outing was the result, a 1-0 win in Moldova, Alessandro Del Piero scoring the goal. The questions thrown up by that less-than-convincing performance were highlighted in October when Italy travelled to Celje in Slovenia and came away beaten 1-0 thanks to an 82nd-minute goal from substitute Bostjan Cesar.

Even though Lippi protested afterwards that the goal had come against the run of play (and it had), Italy were probably too unenterprising against a team always certain to pull out all the stops against their prestigious neighbours. That this Italy still lacks both a consolidated identity and a reliable chassis was underlined even in victory in their next World Cup outing, a 4-3 home win

against Belarus. Three times (at 2-0, 3-1 and 4-2) Italy appeared to have the game wrapped up. Yet each time the impressive Belorussians played their way back into the game, forcing Italy to sweat all the way. Captain Francesco Totti scored twice, De Rossi got another and Alberto Gilardino finally notched his first goal for Italy. But the limitations of the Italian defence were punished by goals from Maxim Romaschenko (two) and Vitaliy Bulyga.

Jury out on Lippi

For the time being, the jury is out on Lippi, although, given the poor quality of the Group 5 opposition, it will prove a major disappointment if Italy prove incapable of dominating from here on.

Yet these are still early days, during which the former Juventus coach has opted to experiment. In his opening five games, he has used 28 players and given first caps to five – Emanuele Blasi, De Rossi, Maurizio Esposito, Gilardino and Toni.

Close run thing... Cannavaro, Blasi, Gilardino, Materazzi and Buffon celebrate Italy's nailbiting 4-3 victory over Belarus

Furthermore, in those opening five games, Lippi had to make do without established names such as strikers Christian Vieri, Filippo Inzaghi and Antonio Cassano, midfielder Cristiano Zanetti and defender Christian Panucci. Given Lippi's obvious desire to introduce fresh, younger blood, it is not difficult to conclude that for all but Cassano, it will prove difficult to play their way back into the Italian team.

A side that already looks as if it may dominate the Serie A title contest from here to the finish is Fabio Capello's new-look Juventus. By the beginning of November, the League leaders had run up a mean set of results in 14 Serie A and Champions League games, winning 12 and drawing two.

A quick glance at their Serie A stats tells you everything about the difference between this season's Juventus and last season's. They had scored 20 goals and conceded only two at the beginning of November. Whatever else happens between now and the end of the season, Juve's defensive backbone of Brazilian Emerson in midfield, Frenchman Lilian Thuram and Fabio Cannavaro in central defence and Gigi Buffon in goal is going to prove very hard to beat.

Add to that consideration the attacking effectiveness of Gianluca Zambrotta at left-back, Italo-Argentinian Mauro Camoranesi on the right of midfield and Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic in attack, and you have the bones of a useful side. All that was missing early on was the very best form of Czech maestro Pavel Nedved, and he duly found it, to the dismay of Bayern Munich, Roma, Chievo et al.

Even at this very early stage, it is becoming difficult to see the title contest as anything other than a two-horse race, with champions Milan looking like the only side able to stick the pace. The third pretender to the title, Internazionale, have played some wonderful football in these opening months (qualifying easily and early for the next round of the Champions League) but a shaky defence has caused them to regularly throw away leads, drawing seven of their first nine Serie A games.

Two of those draws came against Milan, in the first derby of the season, and Lazio. The latter result proved especially disappointing for Inter, given the gulf (at least on paper) between the squads. Inter, fielding some of the brightest names in football and saddled with an estimated annual wage bill of £100million, were held by 'economy' Lazio, comprising stolid journeymen and ageing stars such as Paolo Di Canio and commanding a £20m annual wage bill.

Scorer of the late Lazio equaliser at San Siro was Argentinian defender Jose Talamonti, formerly with Argentinian club Rosario Central. The fact that Lazio's hero of the night had been purchased cheaply (technically on loan) was not lost on Lazio's new owner, Claudio Lotito. He said: "Talamonti was one of my own ideas. I absolutely wanted to have him and he is the proof that you can put together a competitive side without spending too much money.

"I have nothing against Inter but I have a finger to point at the entire football world. This is an environment that needs to be seriously moralised."

Ousted...Emiliano Mondonico

● Emiliano Mondonico became the second Serie A coach after Rudi Voller to depart this season when he was sacked by Fiorentina after a 2-2 away draw with Udinese. Fiorentina wanted to replace him with either Cesare Prandelli or Alberto Malesani. Prandelli was not available since he is still nursing his wife through the life-threatening illness that prompted him to resign from Roma this summer, making way for Voller. Malesani may yet land the job but, in the meantime, ex-Bologna boss Sergio Buso has taken over and won his first two games.

Latter-day Don Quixote

On a number of recent TV shows, Lotito has repeated his views on the "moralisation" of football. His vision appears to be one in which players will accept less cash and assume more responsibility both in terms of on-the-pitch effort and by way of fidelity to a single club. In other words, we could have a latter-day Don Quixote on our hands, willing to tilt his lance at the awesome, ugly windmill of player power. Good luck to him.

Among Lotito's plans is the building of Lazio's own stadium, close to Rome, perhaps even at the club's current training centre of Formello. He calculates that a stadium could be worth an annual £14m to the club.

His calculation may be an estimate, but what seems clear is that Italian clubs have long missed the boat when it comes to the ownership of their stadia (nearly all Italian stadia are owned by the relevant municipal authority). For example, gate receipts in Italian football count, on average, for 16 per cent of total annual income as opposed to 30 per cent in the English Premiership. We will surely be hearing more of Claudio Lotito.

'Talamonti is proof you can put together a competitive side without spending too much'

Lazio owner Claudio Lotito

Homage to Catalonia

The tributes to in-form Barcelona have been flooding in

SID LOWE in Madrid

WHEN JOAN LAPORTA ran for the presidency of Barcelona he promised change. Mind you, he also promised David Beckham, but no matter: these days few Barca fans dwell on his failure to secure the England captain, even if it was the central plank of a glitzy election campaign, the reason many voted for him.

Of course, one reason few dwell on the past was that Ronaldinho, the man who came instead of Beckham, might be uglier ("too ugly to sign for us," according to one Real Madrid director), but he has proven to be an even better player.

More importantly, the fans do not look back in anger because Laporta has indeed delivered on his promise of change, with Ronaldinho at the head of his side. The club have been streamlined, wages cut by 20 per cent, the £100million debt restructured, the annual deficit wiped out. They have been given a greater cultural resonance, match-days turned into a huge occasion. There is a very different atmosphere about the club, a sense of progress and, most importantly, on the pitch they are fresh, enjoyable to watch, playing superbly. These are very different, exciting times at Camp Nou.

Back in the summer of 2003, Beckham insisted there was only one choice: Real Madrid. If few would have argued then, they would now – just ask Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o, a Barca signing this summer. His transfer provides an eloquent comment on the shifting fortunes of Spain's Big Two, on the revival of Barcelona.

Slightly mad, yet loveable and a truly fantastic footballer, Eto'o was ready to leave Mallorca, where he had played, increasingly brilliantly, for five years. And he wanted to go to Barca. There was a problem, however. The club he had joined as a 16-year-old owned 50 per cent of him – and that club was Real Madrid, who quite fancied having him back (even if the feeling lingers they didn't quite try hard enough to persuade him, that they did little to heal old wounds). They certainly didn't want him going to their bitterest rivals.

But Eto'o insisted that he wanted to go only to Barca. That not only spoke of his irritation at his treatment in Madrid – "I'd just won an Olympic Gold, and Madrid bought Pedro Munitis," he moaned – but also his sense that Barca, not Madrid, was the place to be. Which was, perhaps, unsurprising: while Madrid had collapsed at

Foot first...Barca forward Samuel Eto'o gets in ahead of Shakhtar Donetsk's Cosmin Barcauan in the Champions League

the end of last term, Barca had come racing back from a desperate start, won at the Bernabeu and finished second to Valencia.

But while Eto'o was determined, Madrid fought back. President Florentino Perez claimed there was "no way" Eto'o was going to Barcelona. Actually, there was: Barca got their man by shelling out £17m, £8m of which went to Madrid. PR-conscious as ever, Perez signed Michael Owen with his half of the cash. The message was clear: never mind Eto'o, we've got Owen.

Few were truly fooled. Owen could turn out to be a better signing – he has scored four goals in as many games, after all – and £17m may seem a huge figure for Eto'o, but Barca had won the round. Perez, the great negotiator of lore, had lost. Power appeared to be shifting.

Flying high

And the evidence so far this season appears to confirm that assessment – even if it is rather early to be drawing conclusions. Barcelona are flying, playing some superb football: when they defeated Milan in the Champions League with a wonderful late winner from Ronaldinho even the Madrid press bowed. "How great is Barca's football!" raved *Marca*. "Barcelona offered a recital of good taste, another exhibition of what it means to play well, securing a spectacular, intrepid and *importantisimo* victory." One columnist neatly summed up Madrid fans' thoughts, describing Barca as "just what we feared". Meanwhile, the capital's other sports daily, *AS* – even more overtly pro-Madrid – called Ronaldinho a "genius", which he is, and a "god", which he is fast becoming.

So, you can imagine what the Catalan dailies are saying. Comparisons are being made with the Dream Team that won four successive League titles (1991-94). This season, so the feeling goes, could be Barca's at last; there could be a first League title since 1998-99. At the time of writing, Barca are top of La Liga, seven points clear, unbeaten in nine games, having scored 18 goals and conceded just four. They are virtually through to the next round of the Champions League and Camp Nou is even filling. The only problem so far has been the now-traditional early departure from the Spanish Cup.

Barca's summer signings have settled extremely well, better than could have been expected – the creative overload has proven less problematic than anticipated, for now. And that despite the departure of Edgar Davids, the man who would have protected the talent, the catalyst for last season's upturn in form.

Coach Frank Rijkaard has opted for an attacking line of three – Ronaldinho, Eto'o and Ludovic Giuly – backed by Xavi and Deco, with Rafael Marquez (in the absence of Thiago Motta and Edmilson) as a defensive midfield pivot. So far it is working perfectly.

Confounding the critics...Michael Owen

● "Owen is a junk galactico," wrote *AS* columnist Tomas Roncero after the England striker's slow start in Madrid. "This newspaper said so on that ill-fated August 12, that desperate day of self-inflicted pain when Madrid signed Owen, sold Eto'o to Barcelona and missed out on Patrick Vieira ...Let's face it, Owen is not a galactico."

After four goals in as many games in October, Roncero may now be reconsidering his words. After all, he said in the same piece on that ill-fated August 12 that "anyone who questions Owen's ability is a cretin".

Ronaldinho may not have performed at quite the outrageous level he did last year but he remains a magician, capable of the truly sublime – including one impossibly brilliant flick against Osasuna. Giuly has been a pleasant surprise for Barca fans with his pace and diagonal running, while Eto'o has scored 10 goals, eight in the League – as many as all of Madrid's players put together.

Deco has impressed in a deeper role, where despite his tiny stature he is not afraid to dive in with tackles and has been using the ball with his habitual intelligence and precision. But it is Xavi, the man alongside him, who is enjoying himself most. Xavi is fast becoming Spain's best central midfielder, his vision and ability to judge angles, his fluidity and refusal to give up possession inevitably drawing parallels with Pep Guardiola.

It's not just about talent and tactics, though. Mentality and attitude also play their part. There is a sense of zest about the place, real togetherness and collective hunger. Barca play at such pace, with such tempo; there is a sense of shared mission, partnership – especially between Eto'o and Ronaldinho. There is heart, a hint of aggression, of vengeance, of proving themselves. Ronaldinho does not just play; he cares, as anyone who saw his crazy celebration (for which, pathetically, he got a yellow card) against Milan will testify.

Eto'o's drive and heart has always been a key part of his game and his personality. That, as much as his talent, was why he received a fantastic reception when he returned to Mallorca and scored twice (the Cameroonian repaid the fans by refusing to celebrate the goals).

As if that was not enough, he is driven still further by his issues with Madrid, making him the perfect Barcelona player, one with edge. Like Hristo Stoichkov, who made Catalan nationalism and the Barca cause his own, it is Eto'o's attitude as well as ability that frightens *Madridistas*.

Injury problems

Yet it's not all plain sailing. Barcelona already have a number of key players sidelined, losing Gabri, Edmilson and Motta to serious injuries (prompting a study into the Camp Nou turf). When Rijkaard sought to rotate his full-backs against Zaragoza, Gabri and Silvinho (in for Belletti, who has since suffered an injury of his own, and Giovanni Van Bronckhorst) were carried off injured within the opening 20 minutes. So much for rotations.

All of which has highlighted the small size of Barca's squad, currently down to just 15 outfield players. With the exception of Swedish forward Henrik Larsson and the brilliant young playmaker Andres Iniesta, the club have very little in reserve. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that releasing Philip Cocu was an error, that Barca have not truly replaced Davids and that, with their high-tempo approach, they could come unstuck. Winter signings look a must.

For now Barca are flying. But the question is, can it last?

'There is a sense of zest about the place, collective hunger'

Hot and cold

The national team's first two games under Jose Pekerman provided ammunition for fans and critics

TIM VICKERY in Buenos Aires

CESAR MENOTTI, the first man to lead Argentina to a World Cup Final win, is always a reference point in the country's football. When Jose Pekerman was named national team coach he was not impressed.

"I don't know what Pekerman is," Menotti thundered. "I don't know how he responds to pressure or with what ideas he intends to set up his team. The truth is that I don't know him as a coach."

It seemed a harsh judgement on a man who, though he had never before been in charge of a senior side, had taken Argentina to victory in the World Youth Cups of 1995, 1997 and 2001.

Menotti had been particularly enthusiastic about the last of those conquests, but now he said that "there is no pressure at that level, so I disregard his work with the youth sides".

Pekerman, though, had turned down the top job on two previous occasions, and was entitled to believe that if he was not ready for the senior side at the age of 55 then he never would be.

Besides, at both youth and senior levels the pitch is the same size, the goals are in the same place and the ball is the same shape. And in Pekerman's case the players are the same. The bulk of Argentina's senior squad have come up through the youth ranks, where Pekerman helped groom them as players and as men. They

Welcome to the hot seat...Pekerman surveys the scene before his first game in charge, against Uruguay

have always held him in high regard. Winning over the dressing-room is one problem he does not face.

Two matches into his senior team reign it is clearly too early to come to firm conclusions about the new regime. Pekerman is anxious that nothing so far should be seen as definitive, that the team is in a period of transition following the shock resignation of Marcelo Bielsa and his hurried takeover. Nevertheless, the games, World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Chile, made for fascinating viewing, and immediately removed the suspicion that Pekerman's team would be a mere exercise in continuity, a kind of Bielsa-ism without Bielsa.

The signs were there before a ball was kicked in anger. After two days' training, young forward Carlos Tevez said: "Jose's ideas are not the same as Marcelo's, so I think the team will be very different. There will be more pauses in the play. It's not going to be so European."

These were powerful words. Even in Bielsa's most successful moments a barrier existed between him and the Buenos Aires public. In part it was because of his academic approach, as far removed as possible from Peron-style populism. But mostly it was because of the style of play. Bielsa's teams kept up a frenetic pace.

Changes of rhythm

In a country so sensitive about its footballing identity, such high intensity dynamism was attacked as 'European'. Where were the traditional Argentinian changes of rhythm? At club level, coaches queued up to confess their devotion to 'the pause'.

Wisely, given the lack of time available, Pekerman left Bielsa's defence untouched. But there were significant changes in attack. For the first time in years Argentina fielded two central strikers. With Hernan Crespo injured, Luciano Figueroa was the target man, with Javier Saviola alongside him, given licence to roam.

Such liberty was impossible under Bielsa, when the lone striker was squeezed in between two wingers. Now, though, the wingers had gone. After the 4-2 win over Uruguay Sergio Dubcovsky in the sports daily *Ole* summed up the change in approach: "This time there weren't hundreds of crosses fired across the area for a crowd of players to be a millimetre away from turning them into the net... the lasting images are from when the team was celebrating the goals, and the players weren't sure if they should congratulate the man who gave the pass or the man who scored."

More often than not it was Juan Roman Riquelme who gave the pass. Almost ignored by Bielsa, the Villarreal playmaker had collected just 13 caps in seven years and had never before started a World Cup qualifier. Now he was the king of Pekerman's midfield.

Riquelme's critics – most of them in Europe – argue that at the top level he is simply too slow. Back home, though, he has always been seen as the classic foot-on-the-ball Argentinian No 10, and now he instantly became the symbol of the new era. When Argentina play at home the Boca Juniors fans tend to congregate at one end of the Monumental stadium, and the River Plate fans at the other. It is River's ground, and Riquelme starred for Boca – but when he went to take a corner at either end he received a roar of appreciation.

Enigma...Juan Roman Riquelme

● "I have my own way of playing which will always be the same," said playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme on the eve of the Uruguay match. "I'm very happy to be here, because I really like playing alongside guys whose feel for the game is the same as mine. It makes everything much easier." Events in Buenos Aires appeared to prove him right. But his poor performance in Santiago four days later brought all the old question marks back again.

Atmosphere

There were plenty of banners around the stadium thanking Bielsa for his service, along with a few wishing him good riddance. But now with Pekerman in charge, Riquelme pulling the strings and Saviola darting all over the place, the crowd were completely behind the team. As Argentina went four goals up soon after half-time, they created an atmosphere that had not been felt for years in Buenos Aires. One of the most popular chants was "it can already be seen that this is Jose's team".

It was a team that all of Argentina waited expectantly to see again in the next game, against Chile in Santiago four days later.

Pekerman stuck with the same starting line-up, even though Tevez, Andres D'Alessandro and Javier Mascherano were all available again after suspension. In the event all three were brought off the bench in a bid to breathe some life into the stalest Argentina performance for ages.

They were slightly fortunate to come away with a goalless draw. No wingers meant they had no 'out' ball. Chile packed the centre of midfield, and time and time again Riquelme was caught in possession or gave the ball away when hurried into a pass. He remains an enigma.

What will Pekerman make of all this? Does he continue to build around Riquelme? If so, where does this leave the likes of Pablo Aimar – absent from the two games through injury – and D'Alessandro?

Pekerman has so many options available there will surely be moments of confusion on the way to building a team for the next World Cup. But there is no hiding place. For better or worse, by July 2006 Menotti will know all about Pekerman.

'Jose's team will be very different and not so European'

Argentina striker Carlos Tevez

Great leap backwards

Chinese football is beset by problems on and off the pitch

KEIR RADNEDGE in Shanghai

NO FOOTBALL. That is the stern message of a host of road signs facing visitors who approach within 50 yards of the Shanghai International stadium and is some indication of the current confused state of the Chinese game.

The stadium also shelters this go-ahead city's main bus station. The bus drivers know where they are going. But football bosses appear not to have a clue. They are well and truly lost.

The 2002 World Cup is a world away. Reaching the finals for the first time, in Korea and Japan (Korea in practical terms because the Japanese refused to host China for fear of their fans staying on), was supposed to mark China's great (football) leap forward, despite losing all three games and failing to score a goal.

Instead, the game in the world's most populous nation is going backwards at club, national team and grassroots level. That is not merely bad news for rich, if naive, western European clubs who believe China is a merchandising gold mine. Far more serious is the negative effect created domestically by disappointing international results and, worse, a never-ending string of domestic scandals.

It would help if just one Chinese footballing export had achieved the impact of the basketball player Yao Ming in the NBA. But Manchester City's Sun Jihai is largely unappreciated by national coach Arie Haan, Everton's Li Tie has been injured for the best part of a year and captain Li Weifeng did not make the grade at Goodison while interest from Fiorentina has yet to firm up.

All in all, it's not been a good year.

China did reach the Final of both the Asian Cup and the Asian Under-20s, albeit losing both times (painfully by 3-1 to Japan in Beijing in the former, and 2-0 to South Korea in the latter), but failed to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Then there was the issue of Chinese fans' behaviour as Asian

Anarchy rules... Dalian Shide players prepare to walk off in protest against a referee's decision during a match against Shenyang in October

Cup hosts. The pre-match reaction at Japan's matches demonstrated England's hooligans do not own exclusive rights to anthem-bashing.

On top of all that, the opening season of the rebranded Super League has been a chaotic flop, marred by bad-tempered incidents.

Of course it may be simplistic to generalise about a country so vast that it stretches across five time zones but, one way or another, China is failing to get potential fans connected, which means it is failing to get the urban grassroots mobilised.

Those signs around the Shanghai stadium are no joke. Informal football is banned. The public must pay to enter most 'public' parks and, anyway, ball games within them are prohibited. To play football in the city streets would be suicidal. So only the middle-class kids can afford to play in an organised context and get to grow up with a ball at their feet.

No heroes

That, as so many experiments in the United States proved, is not the answer. Football has to become implanted at grassroots level. It cannot be imposed downwards from higher up the social system.

Of course, the creation of heroes can be a positive force. Gary Lineker and Zico did a superb promotional job in Japan when the J.League was launched in the early 1990s. But, despite investment from a variety of multinationals, the Chinese League game cannot afford to import world-class golden oldies to spread the gospel.

German veteran Jorg Albertz at champions Shanghai Shenhua is the biggest 'name' in the Super League and he was, with respect, barely even a journeyman international during his time with Hamburg in the Bundesliga and Rangers in Scotland.

Disaffection with the domestic product has led to top division attendances collapsing from an average 19,500 in the 10 seasons of the old Jia A League to 12,700 in the inaugural 12-club, European-style Super League.

Problem No 1 is the national team. A 1-0 defeat by Kuwait in early October in the World Cup qualifiers when all that was needed was a draw left China – and Haan – in danger of early exits despite victories in all four previous outings. Holland's former double World Cup runner-up has been unlucky with injuries but a clash with Sun Jihai did not help. Sun's father called Haan a "blockhead" in a public outburst during the Asian Cup, which hardly boosted his son's claim for a starting role. Sun invariably had a major impact whenever he appeared as a substitute, but Haan, no doubt for his own self-respect, refused to bow to pressure from the public and media.

Thus China are no longer in control of their own destiny in the first Asian qualifying round of the World Cup. They are second in Group 4 on goal difference behind Kuwait, who face an easier task in the final round of matches on November 17 at home to bottom team Malaysia. China host Hong Kong (an independent football nation despite being politically Chinese now) in Guangzhou.

"We don't think the situation is hopeless," said a China Football Association spokesman. "We still have a chance. We will try our best but the players and coaches have done all they can."

The same cannot be said for the leadership of the Chinese game. Haan believes that the failure to control corruption and dissent are destroying the domestic game and, consequently, undermining the national team and fans' sympathies. He warns: "Even the big football nations have had to get to grips with these issues. There was the big betting and bribes scandal in Italy in 1980, and in Germany in the 1970s club presidents were buying games to avoid relegation. When I played in Belgium with Anderlecht there used to be similar problems every year."

Haan also sees the lack of control by the authorities reflected in dissent, which has run rife on the pitch in the Super League. Here again, he recommends tough action, saying: "Hungary went through something like this in the 1980s. Then they got strict, when even running towards the referee would mean a yellow card. It's essential to cut out complaining to referees otherwise you have anarchy."

The Dutchman's concerns have been echoed by Yang Zuwu, general manager of Beijing Hyundai Guoan. He says: "Match-fixing, 'black' whistles, betting on games and other ugly phenomena are increasing all the time. Some clubs, some players, even some coaches, referees and other 'insiders' are gambling on matches and getting up to other things."

The Super League has been plagued with on-pitch incidents right from the start in May when the Shanghai derby ended in chaos. A controversial penalty awarded to Shenhua in stoppage time provoked a 10-minute hold-up and even when the game did restart Inter Shanghai goalkeeper Jiang Jin leaned against a post and waved Albertz to roll the ball into the net.

Rebellious clubs

Chaos on the pitch has been matched by financial mismanagement off it. Mid-October also saw the 'Shenzhen rebellion', when players from the League leaders boycotted training in protest at not having been paid for six months. Centre-forward Li Yi said: "Senior players can afford to wait but not the younger ones. Huang Yunfeng couldn't even afford to buy milk for his new baby."

Enough money was found to persuade the squad to play on and lift the danger of expulsion from the League, though, technically, clubs who owe players even three months' money should be suspended.

This was the last straw for the clubs, ever more suspicious of the CFA's grip on the new League, including its sponsorship, television rights and marketing. Thus they banded together behind Xu Ming, chairman of seven-times champions Dalian Shide, to demand the CFA open up its accounts.

Xu Ming produced a 13-point plan to impose financial stability, create a professional administration, review CFA accounts for the 10 years of the Jia A League and suspend relegation in the meantime.

The CFA responded by offering to create a task force to form a joint company with the clubs to run the League. That might at least guarantee financial transparency in the future, if not revealing any of the murky secrets of the past. At least it was enough to persuade the clubs to rescind a threat to boycott the rest of the League programme.

Whether anything will come of it is another matter. Events in England, Italy, Spain and Germany – all of whose matches excite Chinese fans far more than their own League – have proved the achievement of long-term club unity is unrealistic.

Regaining some sort of credibility is essential, however, to bring fans back into the stadia for both League games and international friendlies. A mere eight fans bought tickets priced at £6 for one of Sichuan Guancheng's home games, while only 8,000-plus crowds were attracted to watch Milan lose 2-0 to Shanghai Shenhua and Barcelona beat Inter Shanghai 3-0. But both were lacklustre games that merely fuelled resentment over European club greed.

Meanwhile, passable shirts of top European clubs, adorned with the names and numbers of Beckham and co, can be purchased in replica on the markets in exchange for the equivalent of a few pounds and some ritual haggling.

China is a land of enormous opportunity, from both economic and sporting perspectives. But all the evidence suggests that football is not harnessing its potential. An awful lot of responsibility rests with the players of the national team and the directors of their clubs over the next 12 months.

'Clubs united to demand that the CFA open its accounts'

Force of nature

Paddy Agnew on the Brazilian striker who has been in stunning form for Internazionale

ON THE FIRST WEEKEND of November, following a disappointing home draw with Lazio, Internazionale held a routine news conference at their Pinetina training ground in Appiano Gentile. The player sent out to meet the hacks was their Man of the Moment, talented Brazilian striker Adriano.

He was a man with a mission, too. Rather than mutter all the many platitudes and cliches that are the unhappy lot of the football reporter, Adriano publicly rebuked some of his more senior, more famous team-mates.

"We didn't play well against Lazio," he said. "Perhaps this was because there were guys playing who are not always in the team and they were not quite ready.

"Yet, I reckon that whoever comes on ought to be keen to prove something; that's certainly why I always want to play and why I always try to take on board the responsibility of helping out the team. This is Inter, you can't be afraid to play here."

'I always try to take on board the responsibility of helping the team. This is Inter, you can't be afraid to play here'

Brave and bold words for a 22-year-old. The reality about Leite Ribeiro Adriano is that, notwithstanding his relative youth and the fact he has been at Inter only since January, he has become the club's standard bearer. If there is a player in the current Inter squad entitled to stand up and rebuke his team-mates for not doing well enough, it is clearly Adriano – a point obviously not lost on the Inter press office.

By the beginning of November, Adriano's contribution was almost embarrassing. He had scored 14 of his club's 30 goals in 14 games, including seven in their first five Champions League games (qualifying round included).

Given that the 'boy' from a Rio *favela* had had a busy summer winning the Copa America with Brazil, it had been expected that coach Roberto Mancini would rest him a bit, at least during the autumn. Yet, such is his white-hot form that Mancini quite clearly finds it impossible to leave him out of the team.

Even when Adriano returned late from Brazil's October World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela and Colombia, he was still sent out against Udinese, jet-lag notwithstanding. The result was a true 'Roy of the Rovers' goal, when he picked up the ball outside his own area following an Udinese corner and ran the length of the field, taking out five defenders before scoring his second of the afternoon.

Built like a brick powerhouse and blessed with a left-foot mule-kick of a shot that often travels at over 80mph, Adriano is a veritable force of nature. Allied to his awesome strength and pace is an all-too-Brazilian close technique that makes it impossible to label him as merely a 'big target man'.

Just ask Valencia's fans, who gave Adriano a standing ovation on the night of Inter's recent 5-1 Champions League win at the Mestalla (although they would not have been too impressed when he was sent off in the return at the San Siro for a two-fisted assault on Portuguese defender Caneiro). Even his illustrious international team-mate Ronaldo has been impressed, saying recently: "Adriano has a physical strength that is simply unbeatable. On top of that, he has an extraordinary shot as well as the ability to run at defences and not lose his power or control."

Adriano is, of course, no revelation of this season. Since his arrival at Inter in the summer of 2001, he has always looked like a player with an awesome future. That summer, he announced himself to Italian football with a stunning, trademark free-kick goal in a pre-season friendly against Real Madrid.

Discovered at Flamengo by former Inter and Napoli midfielder Salvatore Bagni, Adriano originally moved to Italy as part of a complex deal that also involved Inter's Brazilian midfielder Vampeta returning to the Rio club and another Brazilian, Reinaldo, moving to Paris Saint-Germain the following season.

Despite his obvious promise (and a £7million price tag), Adriano was subsequently farmed out for experience to both Fiorentina and Parma, being recalled to base only last January when it seemed his talents might be enough to keep afloat the Alberto Zaccheroni-coached Inter.

Despite his stunning average of a goal a game for Inter in the first part of this season, there are those who believe that Adriano may yet have room for improvement. During Inter's 0-0 derby draw with Milan, it was noticeable how often the Milan defence tried to force him wide out on the right in order to make it harder for him to bring his killer left foot into play.

The point was not lost on Ronaldo, who commented recently: "It might seem absurd to say it, given that he scores in just about every match he plays, but he has to become more consistent and he has to learn to play off his right foot too. For a striker, it's simply too important, you don't have time to change the ball from one foot to the other in the area."

Ronaldo may be right. But if Adriano gets any better, then Inter will be able to win not just the *scudetto* but also the Champions League and the Oxford-Cambridge boat race.

For what it is worth, we are delighted to settle for the current Adriano, a young player of exceptional ability playing at the peak of his form and unsullied by either physical or mental burn-out. Known these days in Italian football as *L'Imperatore* (The Emperor), he looks set to reign for many seasons, not least because of his sense of motivation.

"The big thing about Adriano is that he loves football and that he is driven by his poor background; that really makes him want to be a winner," says Ronaldo.

The Inter fans sure hope he is right, especially when it comes to winning.

Action man...Adriano takes on Palermo

TOYOTA

Russian roulette

It is 500 days since Roman Abramovich bought Chelsea – and set in motion an extraordinary revolution at Stamford Bridge. But who have been the winners and losers in football's biggest ever spending spree?

Report compiled by Gavin Hamilton, Keir Radnedge, Sid Lowe, Simon Banks, Chris Green, Kevin Palmer, Dominique Antognoni

"I LIVE JUST over there," said Ken Bates, pointing up to an imposing apartment block near Avenue Princesse Grace, one of Monte Carlo's premier addresses. The former Chelsea chairman is now based in the tax haven of Monaco, having pocketed £17million from the sale of his stake in Chelsea to Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.

Bates, looking tanned and relaxed in a white linen suit, declined to comment further to *World Soccer* on his deal with Abramovich, because of an ongoing court case. But he is just one of a number of football figures who have benefited from the biggest spending spree in the history of football.

It is now 500 days since Abramovich was announced as the new owner of Chelsea. "The man from nowhere" was how *World Soccer* described him in August 2003. But it soon became clear that Abramovich was no run-of-the-mill club owner and that Chelsea would be no ordinary rich man's plaything. In the 16 months since he bought Chelsea from Bates, Abramovich has spent over £400m. Nobody, anywhere, at any previous time, has spent so much money in such a short space of time on a football club.

Abramovich's unprecedented expenditure (see panel overleaf) has revived a transfer market that was close to collapse and established Chelsea as a major new force in both English and European football.

How and why Abramovich, a man with apparently no previous interest in football outside his native Russia, came to buy Chelsea remains a matter of intense debate. The official line from Abramovich is that he became infatuated with European football after watching Real Madrid's thrilling Champions League quarter-final victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford in April 2003.

"That was the amazing match in which Ronaldo scored a hat-trick," recalls Peter Kenyon, then United's chief executive but now doing the same job for Chelsea, who was introduced to Abramovich by Israeli agent Pini Zahavi that night. "So I like to think we had a good influence on Roman getting involved in football. After that I had some discussions with him about various footballing issues and then the opportunity came up to work with him on the Chelsea Project."

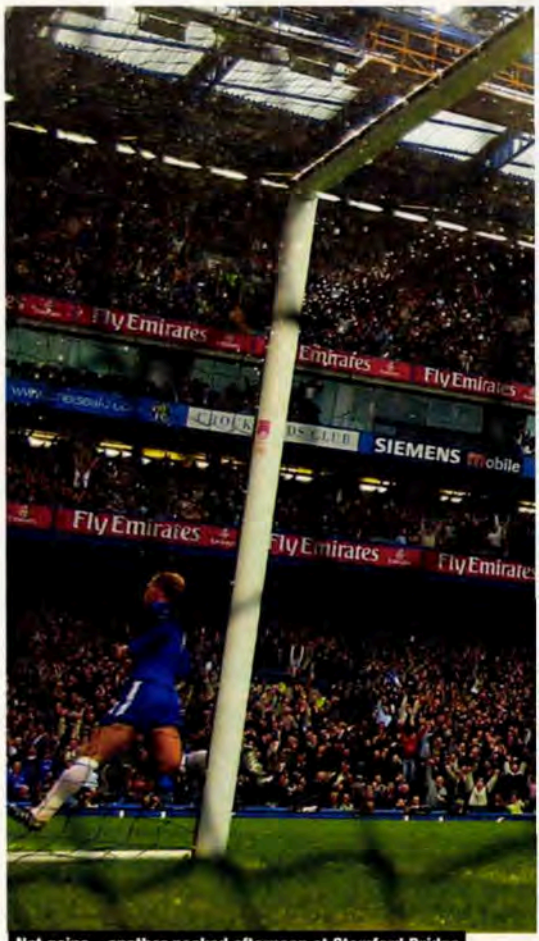
After that game, Abramovich and his advisers ran the rule over a number of clubs in England, Italy and Spain. Spanish clubs were ruled out because of their strict ownership structure, Italians for their playing style. That left four possible English targets: Manchester United, Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea. However, reports that Abramovich settled on Chelsea after seeing Stamford Bridge from a helicopter while en route to Fulham's Craven Cottage ground can be filed under the heading 'urban myth'.

The announcement of Abramovich's dramatic intervention in English football took everybody by surprise, but Chelsea were desperate for new investors. By May 2003 the club were on the verge of **bankruptcy**. In 1997 they had borrowed £75m in the form of a Eurobond to develop Stamford Bridge and build hotels and apartments. The idea behind Ken Bates's plan was that profits from those subsidiary businesses would subsidise the football team. However, planning delays meant that those profits never materialised and the club was left paying £7m interest a year that it couldn't afford. Successive years of losses resulted in an £18m overdraft with Barclays Bank. In May 2003 the bank gave the club an ultimatum to repay the debt in full.

One of the bankers who worked on the sale of Chelsea to Abramovich told *World Soccer*: "We were given a week to do the deal and told that if it wasn't done by Friday the club would be technically bust."

Bates owned only 29.5 per cent of the club's shares, and Abramovich needed at least 50 per cent to take control of the club. Many of the shares were owned by anonymous trusts based in offshore tax havens in places like the Cook Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

'In the first meeting with Roman I knew that I was going to get the one season and that was it. I knew it wasn't probationary' *Claudio Ranieri*



Net gains...another packed afternoon at Stamford Bridge

British stock market rules prohibit shareholders acting in "concert" with other shareholders without publicly stating that they are doing so. The speed with which unrelated shareholders agreed terms with Abramovich raised eyebrows in the City and led to an investigation into the deal by the Financial Services Authority. Within a week of the deal becoming public Abramovich had secured 51 per cent of the club's shares and made an offer for the remainder.

Eriksson meeting

Soon after the Russian completed the purchase of Chelsea, England coach Sven Goran Eriksson was pictured with Zahavi leaving a meeting at Abramovich's London apartment. Eriksson initially denied the subsequent speculation that he was being lined up to replace Chelsea's Italian coach, Claudio Ranieri, but later admitted that he had "listened" to the club. When he eventually signed a new contract with the FA to manage England in April 2004 he said: "I was not close to joining Chelsea. I was listening. When clubs come and you have ambition you listen to other jobs."

Ranieri, acutely aware of the speculation linking Eriksson with his job, was keen to clarify the situation with Abramovich. "In the first meeting with Roman I knew that I was going to get the one season and that was it," says Ranieri, now back in Spain with Valencia. "So I just tried to make the most of that; I wanted to see what I could make of it but I don't think anything would have changed the situation at the end of the year. I knew it wasn't probationary."

Ranieri's comments will do little to dispel the speculation that some of the player purchases made by Chelsea in summer 2003 were not orchestrated by the manager.

The blurry photograph of Eriksson and Zahavi leaving Abramovich's London apartment was the first public evidence of the agent's involvement with the Russian and Chelsea. Relations between Ranieri and Zahavi became strained as speculation mounted that the Israeli was acting as adviser to Abramovich on football matters. "The trouble for Claudio is he keeps being given players," Bates said in April 2004. "Half the time they turn up without him even knowing about it. He just smiles and puts a brave face on it."

Things had come to a head when Ken Bates branded Zahavi a "dickhead" at a club function, and was subsequently relieved of his column in Chelsea's matchday programme. Zahavi dismissed the former Chelsea chairman's comments but also revealed his role in the Abramovich takeover.

"This revolting character is not worthy of a response," said Zahavi in one of his few public comments. "If I was in his shoes I would wake up every morning praying to God and thanking him that Pini Zahavi saved him from bankruptcy and put £19m [£17m in shares, plus a disputed £2m pay-off] in his pocket. He is history as far as English football is concerned."

Chelsea's response to questions about Zahavi's work is short and sweet: "Pini Zahavi is one of several top agents who the club has a relationship with," reads a club statement. "Regarding any transfers he, or any other agent, has been involved with, the club never discusses the financial details of its transfers."

Did Zahavi lead the flurry of spending following Abramovich's takeover last summer? The early signings of Hernan Crespo and Juan Sebastian Veron, players represented by Zahavi's close South American associate, Fernando Hidalgo, totalled £28m, and will have earned handsome commission for whoever brokered the deals. Indeed, Zahavi was part of the team that paved Veron's £28m transfer to Manchester United from Lazio in 2001.

Geremi, another of Chelsea's signings in those opening weeks of Abramovich's reign, switched agents last summer. The Cameroon midfielder cost £6.9m and is now represented by Barry Silkman, another Zahavi colleague.

Some supporters question the wisdom of those buys. "On whose recommendation was it? Was it Claudio Ranieri? Was it Pini Zahavi? Or was it someone else?" asks MP, former Sports Minister and Chelsea fan Tony Banks.

"Whoever it was wasn't giving good advice because the purchase of Veron in particular was a disastrous decision. When one looks at the early influx of players into Chelsea you have to wonder who was offering the advice to Mr Abramovich."

Jonathan Barnett, whose clients Wayne Bridge and Glen Johnson were Abramovich's first two purchases, is dismissive of such criticisms. He says: "You may hear people suggesting there are shady dealings or something underhand at Stamford Bridge these days. They are a load of rubbish.

"To make any accusations about Pini Zahavi would be totally pointless. Pini is one of the best dealmakers in the game. Chelsea have merely availed of his services when they needed someone to tie up deals."

Once the summer transfer window had closed and more than £100m had been spent on nine new players, it was thought that there would be no new arrivals at Stamford Bridge until the winter window opened. The announcement that Kenyon was resigning as chief executive at Manchester United to do the same job at Chelsea was another bolt from the blue.

Kenyon's role

Kenyon, a former US marketing executive for Umbro, had been credited with turning Manchester United into a global brand and helping them become the richest football club in the world. United insisted that Kenyon could not take up his new post until the closure of the winter transfer window as they were concerned that he may use his experience in signing big-name players such as Veron and Rio Ferdinand to steal a march on his rivals in the transfer market.

United's concerns appeared to be justified when only a month after joining Chelsea Kenyon announced that he had signed Dutch prodigy Arjen Robben from PSV for £12m. Robben had been a long-term target for United and had even visited Old Trafford and met Sir Alex Ferguson. Kenyon's role in the deal was confirmed by PSV president Harry Van Raaij, who said: "I've always been able to do good business with Peter Kenyon. That was the case with the Stam and Van Nistelrooy transfers and

ABRAMOVICH'S SPENDING SPREE

Purchase of club shares	£60m
Clearance of club debts	£80m
PLAYERS	
SUMMER 2003	
Wayne Bridge Southampton	£7m
Glen Johnson West Ham	£6m
Damien Duff Blackburn	£17m
Geremi Real Madrid	£6.9m
Joe Cole West Ham	£6.6m
Adrian Mutu Parma	£13.8m
Alexei Smertin Bordeaux	£3.8m
Neil Sullivan Spurs	£0.5m
Hernan Crespo Internazionale	£13.8m
Claude Makelele Real Madrid	£16.6m
Juan Sebastian Veron Man Utd	£15m
JANUARY 2004	
Scott Parker Charlton	£10m
SUMMER 2004	
Paulo Ferreira FC Porto	£13.2m
Petr Cech Rennes	£7m
Arjen Robben PSV	£12m
Mateja Kezman PSV	£5.3m
Didier Drogba Marseille	£24m
Tiago Benfica	£8m
Ricardo Carvalho FC Porto	£19.85m
New training ground	£20m
Pay-offs to Ranieri, Mutu & others	£10m
Wages and staff	£30m

TOTAL
£406million

again now he is with Chelsea. He is trustworthy and a man of honour who doesn't go back on his word, which is something Manchester United have done."

Any suggestions that Zahavi's influence would decline with the arrival of Kenyon as Chelsea's chief executive were swept away by a casual remark made by Kenyon at the Champions League Final last May. Asked by a TV reporter whether he was there to talk to Porto manager Jose Mourinho, reportedly the number one target to replace Ranieri, Kenyon replied that he was in Gelsenkirchen "with Pini to look at some players".

Relations with Ranieri had now deteriorated beyond repair. Chelsea had defied expectations in both Premier League and Champions League, where a dramatic quarter-final victory over Arsenal had set up a semi-final against Monaco. But Ranieri's future was sealed by his disastrous tactics in the first leg in Monte Carlo, when he made suicidal personnel changes that enabled Monaco to turn a probable defeat into an unlikely victory.

Ranieri had lived up to his image as the 'Tinkerman', a term allegedly coined by Zahavi to discredit Ranieri, who insists that he was not bothered by the moniker. "I don't know where Tinkerman came from but I didn't mind it at all," he says. "I loved it. Tinker, Tinker! I wanted my book to be called The Tinkerman rather than Proud Man Walking but, well, there you go... Tinkerman was funny, it had character. I didn't dislike that name at all. No, no, no!"

Looking back, Ranieri insists he is grateful to Kenyon for turning public opinion in his favour. "I've really got to thank Peter Kenyon a lot...because of him I became even more popular, ha ha ha! I was loved more because of him, I got more sympathy; people are on my side more because of him. He was great for me! We did see things differently but it just doesn't matter now."

Ranieri, helped of course by a £1.75m pay-off, is characteristically philosophical about his time at Chelsea. "It is a shame because it would have been nice to see where that team could have gone, to see what we might have achieved, because I thought we had an excellent team. I wasn't upset when I found out it was only going to be a year because I am a very pragmatic person; I know how things work in football."

Kenyon's take is somewhat different. The switch from Ranieri to Mourinho, says Kenyon, was nothing to do with personality and everything to do with philosophy. He also hints that Ranieri had a better idea of the way the wind was blowing than he admitted.

Kenyon says: "We needed to bring in a different football philosophy. It was about where the club wanted to go. Jose's philosophy is very different to Claudio's. We have a holistic view of our football which involves developing our own talent. For example, we are proud of the fact that now we have more England international players than at any time in the club's history.

Sacked...Chelsea took swift action against striker Adrian Mutu

"Changing direction was not a knee-jerk reaction but one which had been well thought through. We had been discussing the situation with Claudio for a long time and it became apparent that Chelsea needed a manager with a different approach.

"That is what Jose has and we thought it would be successful for us. He came with enormous experience – he'd won domestic titles and both European trophies – and was also looking for a new challenge which was perfectly embodied in the Premier League."

'Can we be a Real Madrid or Man United? Yes, but it won't happen in a year' *Peter Kenyon*

Concerned...Banks

Mourinho has been quick to make his mark at Stamford Bridge. Seven new signings totalling £90m were made this summer, again making Chelsea by far the biggest spenders.

Kenyon insists that Mourinho is not a greedy manager. He says: "There is a view that we have hundreds of players. In fact, we have got it down to a first-team squad of 23, about the same as Manchester United and Arsenal. Between 22 and 25 is the size of squad we needed to challenge in every competition. Our top players face a schedule of about 80 games a season including internationals so you need that many to get you through."

Significantly, 19 players left Stamford Bridge last summer, with only Jesper Gronkjaer, sold to Birmingham for £2m, earning Chelsea any income. Veron and Crespo returned to Italy in loan deals that involve Chelsea still paying 85 per cent of their wages.

For Veron, the return to Serie A was welcome. "Let's just say that after a difficult season, it was a mutually beneficial decision that I leave," he says.

The decision to release so many players, followed by the controversial sacking of Adrian Mutu for cocaine use, suggests an uncompromising side to the new Chelsea. "We have no interest in players who want to come just for the money or London but only in those who want to play well and win things," says Kenyon.

Mourinho changes

Things have also changed on the training pitch under Mourinho. "It's all ball work and that is fantastic," says Damien Duff. "We had to wait a long time to get the ball out last season, but it's not been a problem this time. Mr Mourinho also spends a lot of time working on set-play routines. We have already done well in that area this season."

Chelsea became the first team to qualify for the Champions League knockout round when they won 1-0 in Moscow against CSKA. In the Premier League, their defensive solidity makes them the team most likely to unseat champions Arsenal.

Kenyon is on a loser telling fans it is impossible to buy success but he has to try. "Of course financial power is important," he says, "but just buying a bunch of top names is no guarantee of success. Enough clubs have tried it in vain. Knowing how to invest the money is what's important. You have to build with it so we are looking at short-term, mid-term and long-term goals.

"The success of Real Madrid has not been founded on the last five years and the galacticos but the heritage from many years of success in Europe. Manchester United are not only about what happened in 1999 but what happened in the 1950s and 1960s. Can Chelsea be a Real Madrid or Manchester United? Yes, but it won't happen in one year."

A significant target is to end the club's reliance on their owner's astoundingly deep pockets. Kenyon envisages Chelsea being profitable through their own resources within five years and he also knows how.

"Football clubs are now event businesses with the role of filling a stadium up to twice a week," he says. "We have a conference/catering/hotel business but it all starts with the team. You can't have a successful football business without a successful team. For Roman it's not a hobby but a business strategy to make us, over the next 10 years, one of the most successful clubs in Europe."

Kenyon does not mention Arsenal by name but the threat to Highbury is implicit in his assessment that "there is an opportunity for Chelsea to be recognised as THE London club."

If Kenyon's 10-year plan goes smoothly he and Mourinho could still be around Stamford Bridge in 2014. "There's no reason why Jose should not be with us that long," says Kenyon. "After all, he is only 41 and if he can deliver the success we all want – domestically and in Europe – why would he want to go anywhere else?"

Whether Abramovich will still be part of

Position of power...Abramovich, family and friends cheer on Chelsea at Stamford Bridge

Abramovich: The man who rose without trace

ROMAN ABRAMOVICH may be a hero to thousands of Chelsea fans but the way the 37-year-old made his billions has caused resentment in his native Russia. Along with a group of other Russian businessmen, known as "The Family", frequently described as "robber barons" but known throughout the world as Russia's oligarchs, Abramovich made his fortune by cashing in on the privatisation of the country's industries following the collapse of Communism in the early 1990s.

Abramovich, an orphan who was raised by his uncle in the remote oil town of Ukhta, just outside the Arctic circle, studied the oil industry at college locally and in Moscow. He demonstrated his entrepreneurial flair while a student by selling retreaded tyres as a sideline. On graduation from Moscow's Gubkin Institute of Oil and Gas he moved to Omsk in western Siberia, where he set up a company to trade oil products.

If the secret of success is to be in the right place at the right time, Abramovich was certainly in both in Omsk in the early 90s. He caught the eye of Boris Berezovsky, one of Russia's most powerful businessmen and a friend of then president Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin's policy of privatising the country's massive nationalised industries, fully supported by Western governments and the International Monetary Fund, created an opportunity for Berezovsky and Abramovich to acquire the Sibneft oil company. They did this for a bargain £120million thanks to a controversial policy known as "loans for shares", where wealthy Russians bailed out the government in return for preferential treatment in the privatisation bidding. Analysts currently value the company at around £8.8bn, with Abramovich's stake valued at £5.3bn.

Berezovsky fell out with Yeltsin's successor, Vladimir Putin, in 2001 and went into exile in Britain, leaving Abramovich in charge of Sibneft. Meanwhile, Abramovich also acquired a 50 per cent stake in Rusal, the Russian aluminium and oil monopoly, and 26 per cent of Aeroflot, Russia's national airline.

Unlike some of his "Family" friends, Abramovich was astute enough to realise public and political opinion was turning against the oligarchs. He transferred his wealth to a London-based company, Millhouse Capital, out of the reach of the Russian government, then got himself elected as governor of the Siberian state of Chukotka, with a population of just 73,000, securing immunity from prosecution.

A recent biography of Abramovich suggests the Chelsea owner is closer to Putin than previously thought. Abramovich is alleged to have interviewed candidates for Putin's cabinet in the Kremlin on the day after the presidential elections in 1999.

Whether Abramovich can avoid following in the footsteps of the exiled Berezovsky and Mikhail Khodorkovsky, owner of oil company Yukos, who was recently jailed on fraud charges, remains to be seen. What is beyond doubt is that the way the oligarchs made their fortunes has become a major political issue in Russia and there are plenty of people ready to stick the knife into Abramovich and his ilk.

While Abramovich has brushed aside many of the allegations against him there is no doubt he and the other oligarchs are coming under increasing pressure, with the Russian tax authorities now focusing on how they made their wealth. The imprisonment of Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man, has shown that nobody is exempt from prosecution. As Roland Nash of investment bank Renaissance Capital put it: "Anybody who has serious money in Russia made through the privatisations must be feeling under threat at the moment."

Simon Banks

the Chelsea revolution in 10 years' time is the great unknown factor.

For Kenyon, Abramovich is "the perfect owner. He is very personable, passionate about Chelsea and very knowledgeable about football. His management strategy is getting top people to manage the business day by day while he concentrates on the bigger picture.

"One good issue about dealing with a single owner is that most of my strategy and board meetings happen on a plane or at a football match. So it's much more fun. Also Roman isn't a third-party investor, he's someone who is directly interested in the welfare of the club and its football."

Dinner with Abramovich

That attitude is reinforced by the players. "Abramovich has arrived late to football, and by a roundabout route," says Veron. "He wasn't a fan of the game from boyhood, like [Inter owner Massimo] Moratti, for example. But he is just as capable of throwing himself into a new challenge. He'd often come on to the pitch at the training ground and listen to Ranieri alongside the players."

Others have taken longer to be won over by the Russian. "I'm no apologist for Abramovich, as you well know, but he looks to be a decent sort," says ex-Sports Minister Banks, one of the few fans who has had any contact with the Chelsea owner.

"I had the opportunity of sharing a dinner table with Mr Abramovich at the end of last season. I said to him, through his interpreter, that I still didn't understand why he has done what he has done. I said I thought there would be three ways for him to leave Chelsea. Firstly, he could be arrested by President Putin; secondly, he could be shot or assassinated by a Chechen rebel; or thirdly, he could lose interest.

"His interpreter said: 'Mr Abramovich says he will not lose interest.' But that still leaves the first two options."

Banks says he is no nearer discovering Abramovich's motives. "No one knows. He doesn't make himself available to answer the question," the MP states. "It's nonsense to say it's money laundering because you couldn't launder the amount of money that he's got through a football club, even if you do waste it on players like Mutu, Crespo and Veron.

"The only theory that I can think of, other than that he is a rich man and he wanted to buy a football club for a bit of fun, is that it gives him the sort of high-profile social status he is after and offers protection against being arrested, kidnapped or bumped off."

Sixteen months on from his purchase of Chelsea, Abramovich remains as elusive as ever. "He doesn't mix with the fans, or indeed with the boardroom," says Banks. "I go to every home game, and he sits upstairs, in his own box, with his own mates. But then I suppose if you've bought the club, you can do what the hell you want."

Zahavi: King of the fixers

PINI ZAHAVI HAS been a pivotal figure in shaping the new Chelsea – albeit one that football's authorities, or fans for that matter, know very little of the fine detail about.

Zahavi is the oft-mentioned Israeli 'super agent' who persuaded Roman Abramovich to invest his spare cash in English football, yet he could walk unrecognised down the King's Road.

Despite a renowned love of the high life, especially a penchant for champagne and cigars, Zahavi prefers to keep a low profile.

Speculation is rife about Zahavi's precise role in the Abramovich revolution. Press reports have referred to him as Abramovich's 'trusty adviser'. He is widely credited with directing Chelsea's £200million transfer plunge and head-hunting chief executive Peter Kenyon and coach Jose Mourinho, plus the much-publicised attempt to lure Sven Goran Eriksson.

He will have been handsomely remunerated for his services. Suffice to say, Chelsea have hired the best. Zahavi is known to be football's biggest mover and shaker. His friends include Sir Alex Ferguson, who once said that the Israeli had more contacts than Henry Kissinger.

But he's an enigma. Unlike most major player agencies, many of which are publicly-quoted with websites boasting their clients and housed inside swish offices, Zahavi works in the shadows.

Well connected...Pini Zahavi

'Behind the smiles, cigars and champagne lies a ruthless dealmaker'

His small office in Tel Aviv gives out a message in Hebrew saying: "Pini Zahavi isn't available right now, try later," then cuts out. In London, he lives in a modest Marble Arch flat. He is rarely quoted and never gives interviews.

Zahavi's core skill is stitching deals together. "It's where the really big money is," says close friend, fellow agent and former player Barry Silkman. "People know they can trust Pini. He can walk into Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal, Inter, Milan, Real Madrid, all the major clubs...With one phone call Pini can sit you in front of the president or the financial director or the player or his agent."

Zahavi represents relatively few players – preferring to act on behalf of clubs – although spotting Rio Ferdinand at West Ham's training ground when he was 15 eventually paid dividends. As his agent, Zahavi netted £4m from Ferdinand's transfers to Leeds and Manchester United, which totalled £47m.

Zahavi made his name in 1979 by pulling off a huge coup for Israeli football. He was working as a sports reporter for Israel's biggest newspaper, *Yediot Ahronot*, when he persuaded Liverpool to take a young Maccabi Tel Aviv defender, Avi Cohen, on trial.

Liverpool eventually signed Cohen for £200,000. A year later Zahavi brought Silkman, England's only Jewish footballer, to Maccabi Haifa on loan from Manchester City. During the 1980s he edged out of journalism into agency work, spreading his tentacles worldwide – not just West Europe but into the former Eastern bloc countries, South America and Africa.

He is one of the most powerful men in Israeli football. Not only does he represent many of the country's top players but also has a close friend in Jacob Shachar, president of Israel's biggest club, Maccabi Haifa, and is a co-director of a TV company that owns the rights to screen top English and Israel League matches.

Zahavi has what Israelis call 'chutzpah' – cheek, bottle or front. Tom Bower, who delved into football's finances in his book *Broken Dreams*, describes Zahavi as "cultivated", "intelligent" and "beguiling", but with this warning: "Behind the smiles, cigars and champagne lies a ruthless dealmaker who is accumulating millions of pounds at other people's expense."

Multilingual Zahavi is known as a Mr Ten Per Cent. If he has struck only half of the deals at Chelsea he will have netted a cool £10m since Abramovich rolled into town. That would mean that Zahavi has been the club's highest earner and arguably the biggest beneficiary of Abramovich's takeover.

Chris Green

No Paris blues...Mourinho looks on from the bench as Chelsea beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-0 in their opening Champions League group game

'I don't think I'm arrogant'

In his first major interview since taking over at Chelsea, Jose Mourinho talks to Gavin Hamilton

WORLD SOCCER: Has your hair been getting greyer over the past few months?

JOSE MOURINHO: I don't know. When I have it cut short, it's easier to see the greys. I don't think I have changed a lot. I don't feel any more pressure here than I felt before. I enjoy the work, I enjoy every minute of my professional life. When you go to the stadiums, the atmosphere is so beautiful that maybe you don't feel so much the importance of the game. Sometimes in Portugal when you play away from home, the atmosphere is very hostile. So in Latin countries you can feel more of the...

...hatred?

The negative side of football. The negative side of our society. People sometimes go to football and bring to it the negative aspects of our society. In England, when people go to football they just go to think about football. Nothing else. They enjoy every second of the game. In the beginning I was thinking that when you go to a game at Saturday at 12 o'clock, nah, the stadium will be empty. We went to Aston Villa, we arrived at the stadium at 10.30 in the morning, I thought half of the people will be asleep, the other half will be working, nobody will come to the stadium, and the stadium was empty. I went to the dressing-room, I came out for the warm-up at 11.45, the stadium was full. I don't know where they appeared from. So the atmosphere is fantastic, and it takes pressure off you because you also become involved in that spirit. I think the best place to work in football is England.

Did you have a clear idea about how long it would take to impose your ideas on the team?

For me, it was the big question mark. I'll never forget a word I had with Mario Stanic. He left the club but he was with me on the first day, and he said something like: "A lot of people have arrived in England and they just adapt to the English reality of football. But I know that your methods and your philosophy and your way of thinking are very special. Don't ever change, even if it takes time, don't change." I'll never forget what he said. So it was a question for me whether the players could adapt. I followed an Italian manager and it cannot be easy when you follow a manager who thinks very differently.

The pre-season became crucial for me. I analysed the way the players were open for that change. For a start it made me really happy because the players thought from the first moment that they were enjoying our way of working.

When you just work tactically, in pure football sessions, you can see the way they can think football. I could see the players who would become crucial for me because they think football in the same way as me. Not just the two players I brought from Porto, who were a big help in that adaptation, but also players like Makelele, John Terry, Eidur Gudjohnsen.

At the moment I feel we are really a very strong team defensively. I don't say we are a defensive team. I say we are a strong team in defensive terms, but at the same time lacking sufficient fluidity in attack because that will take time to come. But we still are playing very good football at times. The only thing I would like is to have more control of the game in terms of possession. In five years I have never had a match where my team has had less possession than the

opponents. Never, never. We could play Real Madrid, we could play Deportivo La Coruna, even Manchester United; we always had a bigger percentage. So we could have more possession, and again that takes time. But the team is going in the right direction.

Do media accusations that Chelsea are defensive worry you?
No, it doesn't worry me in the sense that I get influenced by that or that I am being pushed to change my mind. No. No chance. And is the team being influenced by that? No chance. The team is completely close. Anything you say outside, there is no chance it will go inside. So the team is really strong and compact. We know what we want and how to achieve it on the pitch. For me, no problem; for the team, no problem.

The only thing that we cannot control is our supporters. Can you imagine, for example, one day we play at home, we are winning 1-0, our opponents are playing better than us – it happens sometimes! – and the supporters, instead of getting behind us, are influenced by what they read every day or by what they hear every day from television reports, and so maybe they go the other way. Especially when you play at home, you need a good atmosphere behind you. But it doesn't matter so much what the press write about us.

Do you really believe that in England the fans turn on the team? It's not something that English fans do generally, compared with Latin fans.
Yeah, normally they are behind the team, they are faithful. I think they understand now what the team can give them, and I think they understand that we are in good shape. But I always feel that one day we will score the goals that we are not scoring now – and we will concede the goals that we are not conceding now. So if one day the result becomes 3-3, for me it doesn't change my mind, because it's football, it's normal. What is not normal is that we haven't been scoring enough goals playing such good football as we've been playing in the last few weeks. But it's also not normal that we have conceded only one goal in our first eight League matches.

But in Europe you are scoring more goals. Why is that?
In Paris we had probably five chances, and scored three goals. I think it happens, it just happens. Against Paris Saint-Germain we had control of the game, although it was really tight, but it seemed almost every time we had a chance, we scored. Yet take the game against Liverpool, for example. Frank Lampard had four clear chances to score, all in the first half, and he couldn't take even one of them. So it's a question of moments, but I'm not so worried about that. I'm more worried because Didier Drogba is injured.

The Premiership's three new foreign coaches – you, Benitez and Santini – seem to have upset the media with your style of football.
For a start they should think one thing. In the Premiership there are 20 managers. Only three have won European trophies. Only three, not 20, three: Sir Alex [Ferguson], Mourinho and Benitez. So when they have Mourinho and Benitez joining the Premiership they should say it's good for us, maybe these guys have something new to give. At the very least it brings prestige to the Premiership because foreign managers could choose between Spain, Italy, France and every country in the world but they choose England. At the very least we should be given a bit of credit and a little bit of space, and maybe the media should think we could help them discover why English teams do not win European competitions.

After three months here, can you provide an answer?
I give that answer in my dressing-room because I want to transform my team into a winning team. I don't know if it's possible because when you look at the Champions League you can see 10 candidates: Milan, Inter, Juventus, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Man United, Arsenal, Porto. So even if you are a strong side, maybe you don't win.

In general terms we must think more about our football and not play by instinct. And I think because of the passion of every English player and every English supporter, and every English journalist for the game, most of the game is played with passion, love for football and instinct, but in football you also have to think. When you play another team with the same qualities as you normally the best one wins. But when you play against other people and other teams who can think football and can stop during the game and think collectively and don't play by instinct, it becomes much more difficult. You see how Spanish,

Versatile...Geremi

'Foreign managers bring something new to the game and should be given credit'

Italians, Portuguese play football. I don't say they are perfect, I say English football has a few things to learn from them in the same way they have a lot of things to learn from English football. I feel I have a lot to learn from English football and I am completely open to good influences in my way of thinking football. But I also have things to give them. At the moment, the lines of communication between me and my players are wide open and the intention is to improve the whole team by each one of us giving the best we have to give. I believe it can make us a strong team. I cannot say we will win the Champions League or the Premiership, I don't know. But what I do know is that we can do it.

What's missing at a club like Real Madrid at the moment?
The only thing I can see from outside is that there is a hole in the squad. They have a group of stars and they have a group of young boys who are not ready to cope with that pressure and that quality. What is missing is what I call low-profile players. For example, in my team I love to have Geremi on the bench because he's a low-profile player who is ready to help, ready to fight for the team, ready to do the job I want him to do. If I need him to play right-back, he can play right-back. If I need him to play right-winger, he can play right-winger. If I need him to pick up a man and mark him out of the game, he does it. And you look to Milan, it's the same story. You have the main XI, but after that you can find Ambrosini, you know Kaladze is there, and Tomasson too. They have a group of second-line players to give support.

You go to Real Madrid and you find lots of attacking stars – Owen, Ronaldo, Morientes, Raul and so on – and after that you have two central defenders, you have only Michel Salgado for the right-hand side, you have only Helguera for the defensive midfield player and you don't feel that is right for the whole season. That's easy to see from the outside. What I can't answer is – are they committed? Do they have enough motivation? Do they think football all the time or are they training but thinking about something they have to do after lunch? You can only find out by working with them.

Some English people seem to be fascinated by the galacticos. There were approaches to Roberto Carlos, to Ronaldo. Have you said to Mr Abramovich, we don't want that any more?
Yes, I told him. On the first day. But I tried to explain why. I think the message got through and now everybody in the club knows why I prefer Paulo Ferreira instead of somebody else, why I prefer Drogba instead of somebody...

Fernando Torres? People talk about him moving to Chelsea...
Fernando Torres is a young boy. He is expensive, so therefore he can only be connected with Chelsea! It all depends on the concept of a galactico. Who is a galactico? Is he a famous guy with a lot of money, a lot of prestige? Or is he a player who can play 60 matches a season, putting in consistent performances?

But is it understandable that Mr Abramovich, having spent a lot of money on the club, wants to sign star names?
He wants to win, and I try to explain to him my philosophy about making a winning team. It's very difficult to win for the first

time, very difficult. Look at the way teams play against Arsenal. They don't believe they can win. They don't believe. People talk about a fantastic goal by Thierry Henry. For me he has fantastic skill but I have to say it is ridiculous. They don't believe, but against Chelsea they believe. Against Man United, they believe, because over the last few years Man United have not been the same. So just on this point, winning for the first time is very difficult, very difficult. They respect Arsenal. I felt the same thing in Porto, especially in domestic competitions.

But at Porto, you only had a few stars. At Chelsea, it's different...
But they were big stars in Portuguese football. The dimension is different. For Portuguese football, they were stars. But we could feel it on the pitch, people wanted to beat us. Arsenal have won that advantage, nobody gave it to them. By playing fantastic football and by winning matches and by winning trophies, they won that respect that the opponent has for them. But they go into Europe and it is not the same story. PSV play against Arsenal at Highbury, and they don't have the same sort of respect another English team would have, they believe they can win. Arsenal found it pretty much the same when they played against Rosenborg in Norway.

Chelsea are trying to grow very quickly. Do you feel the pressure to contribute to the growth of the club interfering with your work?
No. It was one of the reasons I wanted to join. In my first conversations with Chelsea, the most crucial one I had was with [chief executive] Peter Kenyon because he's completely focused on the Chelsea brand and making them one of the best clubs in the world. That makes me want to be part of that project, and then I think everything becomes important. You can have the top stars to bring the attention, you can have the best stadium, you can have the best facilities, you can have the most beautiful project in terms of marketing and all this kind of thing. But if you don't win...All the work these people are doing is forgotten.

You have to win and especially, as I have, you have to win a trophy for the first time. Chelsea needs to grow up in all the different areas and is doing that. The new training centre will be fantastic, the work the club is doing in terms of merchandising is fantastic. The way Mr Abramovich is ready to help the team in all the areas where you need big financial investment. But our role, mine and the players, in terms of achieving football success, becomes the nucleus of that.

How much day-to-day interest does Mr Abramovich take in the team?
He has his private and professional life. Of course, he is not able to be here every day but there was one thing that I wanted him to know: he is always welcome. I always feel that with a president, an owner – it depends on the structure of the club and the country – the players generally like to see him. For me it is not a problem. When he comes here, he is not coming to interfere with my work. He just comes to give his faith, to give his support, to communicate with people. The reason I was a little late for our meeting was that I spent an hour and a half with him and Mr Kenyon in talks about the club. That's absolutely normal.

So he's very present in the club?
He's always present. He's committed. Of course, he knows what Peter Kenyon is doing, he knows what I am doing and he doesn't need to be worried about training players or the club organisation, Peter Kenyon does that. Abramovich is a top man.

Your career has so far been very successful. How do you think you will react when you have difficulties, because it happens to every coach?
Sure, but I know football very well. I was nine or 10 years old and my father was sacked on Christmas Day. He was a manager, the results had not been good, he lost a game on December 22 or 23. On Christmas Day, the telephone rang and he was sacked in the middle of our lunch. So I know all about the ups and downs of football, I know that one day I will be sacked. I know that one day the results will not be good. But I think it's more normal for my team to have no success than it is to win two consecutive European cups.

'Most of the game is played with passion, love and instinct but you have to think, too'

Who would be your choice for player of the year for 2004?
It's difficult, you know. Because normally the best player is always connected with something big. Who did something big this year? Greece and Porto. Deco got it from UEFA, the best player of the Champions League. From the European Championship, I don't know but maybe the Greek captain, Zagorakis. I don't think it's an easy award to give. Maybe Thierry Henry for what he did in England, Frank Lampard for what he did both here and in Europe. But I always think of Shevchenko, maybe because he plays in the most difficult country for attacking players; I think Shevchenko is doing a fantastic job in Italy.

In some press conferences, you often speak out against other coaches. Is it a message more for your dressing room – that they don't have to fear anyone?
It depends. Facing the press is not easy, but because you have to go, you have to try to take a lot of positive things for yourself from these face-to-face meetings. When I go I have to be or try to be ready for questions and I try to have some messages that I want to pass on. For example, after the last game [against Liverpool] I could guess how the questions would go. Joe Cole scored the goal, Joe Cole goes to the national team, Joe Cole is not playing for Chelsea, Joe Cole is not playing for England, he scored the winning goal, he was on the bench, he was the hero, and I could guess they wanted to put Joe Cole on the moon. So I went there and I was thinking if they want to put him on the dark side I have to push him up. If they want to put him on the moon, I have to kick him. So, because he got all the plaudits from the press, I had to kick him a little bit.

Message...Cole

So behind your arrogance is a clever thinker?
I don't know. I don't think I'm arrogant.

But if you play chess with the media...
When I face the media, maybe I don't feel it now, here with you, because it's a different sort of interview, but when I face the media before or after the game, I feel it as part of the game. When I go to the press conference before the game, in my mind the game has already started. And when I go to the press conference after the game, the game has not finished yet. Or if that game has finished, the next one has already started. So I'm not there to be what you want me to be, or what people are waiting for me to say. It would be much easier, and Joe Cole would be much happier, if I go there and say of course Joe Cole was amazing and so on. But I need Joe Cole to give me more, so I didn't go there to be part of your movie. My movie is another one. But I don't feel I am arrogant. Sometimes I can be or I can show it, but it's not really my personality.

What went wrong with Luigi Del Neri at Porto?
In the same way that I had to follow an Italian manager here, I can imagine that it was not easy for an Italian manager to follow me at Porto. We have completely different concepts of training. For example, at Chelsea, with Mr Sassi [Claudio Ranieri's fitness coach] the way they used to develop an aerobic condition was putting players through 12 sprints of 100 metres each. The way I use to develop an aerobic condition is three against three, man to man, in a square 20 metres by 20. It's completely different, and I can imagine it was the same for Mr Del Neri. The Porto players were with me for two and a half years, they believed in me, in my methods, in the way we do it. The next day I go and a manager arrives who works completely differently. So you can see the problem.

ATALANTA

GOALKEEPERS

28	Nicholas CAGLIONI	14.01.83
27	Alex CALDERONI	31.05.76
1	Massimo TAIBI	18.02.70

DEFENDERS

6	Gianpaolo BELLINI	27.03.80
3	Natale GONNELLA	19.01.76
13	Duccio INNOCENTI	20.09.75
25	Cesare NATALI	05.04.79
16	Claudio RIVALTA	30.06.78
2	Fabio RUSTICO	20.05.76
24	Luigi SALA	21.02.74
17	Gleison Pinto SANTOS (Bra)	18.08.81

MIDFIELDERS

4	Demetrio ALBERTINI	23.08.71
8	Antonino BERNARDINI	21.06.74
9	Carmine GAUTIERI	20.07.70
21	Andrea LAZZARI	03.12.84
7	Michele MARCOLINI	02.10.75
22	Nicola MINGAZZINI	13.08.80
18	Riccardo MONTOLIVO	18.01.85
15	Piermario MOROSINI	05.07.86
19	Damiano ZENONI	23.04.77

FORWARDS

11	Igor BUDAN (Cro)	22.04.80
20	Gianni COMANDINI	18.05.77
10	Joao Batista INACIO PIA	22.03.82
29	Giampaolo PAZZINI	02.08.84
78	Luca SAUDATI	18.01.78

COACH

Andrea MANDORLINI	10.07.60

BOLOGNA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluca PAGLIUCA	18.12.66
12	Andrea PANSERA	28.12.79
22	Alessandro VIOLINI	11.05.84

DEFENDERS

32	Ciro CAPUANO	10.07.81
2	Daniele DAINO	08.09.79
24	Pasquale D'ANIELLO	16.12.85
3	Alessandro GAMBERINI	27.08.81
17	JUAREZ (Bra)	25.09.73
30	Valentin NATASE (Rom)	04.10.74
5	Fabio PETRUZZI	24.10.70
31	Vlado SMIT (Ser)	06.04.80
20	Stefano TORRISI	07.05.71

MIDFIELDERS

4	Christian AMOROSO	22.09.76
14	Jonatan BINOTTO	22.01.75
19	Leonardo COLUCCI	29.12.72
19	Alessandro CORTESI	26.04.87
8	Federico GIUNTI	06.08.71
13	Massimo LOVISO	09.04.84
7	Carlo NERVO	29.10.74
18	Andrea SUSSI	23.10.73
6	Theo ZAGORAKIS (Gre)	27.10.71

FORWARDS

11	Claudio BELLUCCI	31.05.75
15	Giacomo CIPRIANI	28.10.80
10	Tomas LOCATELLI	09.06.76
16	Mourad MEGHNI (Fra)	16.04.84
9	Igli TARE (Alb)	25.08.73

COACH

Carlo MAZZONE	19.03.37

BRESCIA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Federico AGLIARDI	11.02.83
1	Luca CASTELLAZZI	19.07.75

DEFENDERS

5	Daniele ADANI	10.07.74
23	Simone DALLAMANO	25.11.83
32	Luigi DI BIAGIO	03.06.71
16	Victor Hugo MARECO (Par)	26.02.84
2	Gilberto MARTINEZ (CR)	01.10.79
3	Marius STANKEVICIUS (Lit)	15.07.81
6	Davide ZOBOLI	08.10.81

MIDFIELDERS

25	Matias ALMEYDA (Arg)	21.12.73
26	Jonathan BACHINI	05.06.75
20	Maurizio DOMIZZI	28.06.80
4	Roberto GUANA	21.01.81
27	Abderrazzak JADID (Mor)	01.06.83
40	Daniele MANNINI	25.10.83
24	Francesco MARFIA	10.06.85
7	Omar MILANETTO	30.11.75
18	Markus SCHOPP (Aut)	22.02.74
15	Marco ZAMBELLI	22.08.75
21	Fabrizio ZAMBRELLA	01.03.86

FORWARDS

29	Andrea CARACCIOLO	18.09.81
11	Simone DEL NERO	04.08.81
19	Gigi DI PASQUALE	
11	Marc NYGAARD (Den)	01.09.76
9	Giuseppe SCULLI	23.03.81

COACH

Giovanni DE BIASI	16.06.56

CAGLIARI

GOALKEEPERS

12	Davide CAPELLO	27.09.84
34	Gennaro IEZZO	08.06.73
1	Theofanis KATERGIANNAKIS (Gre)	16.02.74

DEFENDERS

31	Alessandro AGOSTINI	23.07.79
4	Francesco BEGA	26.10.74
6	Diego LOPEZ (Uru)	22.08.74
15	Simone LORIA	28.10.76
35	Roberto MALTAGLIATI	07.04.69
14	Francesco PISANO	29.04.86
11	Rocco SABATO	19.04.82

MIDFIELDERS

18	Nelson ABEIJON (Uru)	21.07.73
3	Marcello ALBINO	07.10.71
19	Massimo BRAMBILLA	04.03.73
5	Daniele CONTI	09.01.79
49	Loris DEL NEVO	31.05.75
8	Massimo GOBBI	30.10.80

FORWARDS

32	Rolando BIANCHI	15.02.83
7	Mauro ESPOSITO	13.06.79
23	Antonio LANGELLA	30.03.77
2	Horacio PERALTA (Uru)	03.06.82
9	David SUAZO (Hnd)	05.11.79
10	Gianfranco ZOLA	05.07.66

COACH

Daniele ARRIGONI	28.08.59

CHIEVO

GOALKEEPERS

4	Paolo CODOGNOLA	27.03.81
1	Luca MARCHEGIANI	22.02.66
34	Sergio MARCON	09.11.70

DEFENDERS

25	CESAR (Bra)	19.05.79
72	Lorenzo D'ANA	29.01.72
83	Marco ESPOSITO	08.02.80
23	Salvatore LANNA	31.07.76
32	Marco MALOGO	30.12.78
2	John MENSAH (Gha)	29.11.82
27	Fabio MORO	13.07.75
14	Emanuele PESARESI	01.12.76

MIDFIELDERS

20	Riccardo ALLEGRETTI	15.02.78
8	Roberto BARONIO	11.12.77
33	Matteo BRIGHI	14.02.81
3	Alfredo CARIELLO	10.09.79
16	Ivone DE FRANCESCHI	01.01.74
19	Daniele FRANCHESCHINI	13.01.76
5	LUCIANO (Bra)	03.13.75
28	Mattia MARCHESETTI	28.09.83
18	Davide MARCHINI	23.02.81
21	Paolo SAMMARCO	17.03.83
7	Franco SEMIOLI	20.06.80
10	Andrea ZANCHETTA	02.02.75

FORWARDS

11	AMAURI (Bra)	03.06.80
24	Federico COSSATO	07.08.82
31	Sergio PELLISSIER	12.04.79
41	Davide SUCCI	11.10.81
9	Simone TIRIBOCCHI	31.01.78

COACH

Mario BERETTA	30.10.59

FIORENTINA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Cristian Sebastian CEJAS (Arg)	21.04.75
11	Cristiano LUPATELLI	21.06.78
90	Francesco PALMIERI	31.07.75
12	Marco ROCCATI	01.07.75

DEFENDERS

87	Antonio AQUILANTI	08.11.85
4	Giorgio CHIELLINI	14.08.84
3	Dario DAINELLI	09.06.79
33	Daniele DELLI CARRI	18.09.71
25	Christian MAGGIO	11.02.82
19	Mirko SAVINI	11.03.79
55	William VIALI	16.11.74

MIDFIELDERS

8	Luca ARIATTI	27.12.78
7	Angelo DI LIVIO	26.07.66
77	Gaetano FONTANA	21.02.70
29	Gianni GUIGOU (Uru)	22.02.75
6	Luis HELGUERA (Spa)	09.06.76
10	Hidetoshi NAKATA (Jap)	22.01.77
5	Cristian OBODO (Nig)	11.05.84
44	Luigi PIANGERELLI	19.10.73

FORWARDS

76	Enrico FANTINI	27.02.76
11	Fabrizio MICCOLI	27.06.79
18	Javier PORTILLO (Spa)	30.03.82
9	Christian RIGANO	25.05.74

COACH

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS

15	Fabian CARINI (Uru)	26.12.79
12	Alberto FONTANA	23.01.67
1	Francesco TOLDO	02.12.71

DEFENDERS

3	Nicolas BURDISSO (Arg)	12.04.81
77	Francesco COCO	08.01.77
2	Ivan CORDOBA (Col)	11.08.76
16	Giuseppe FAVALLI	08.01.72
24	Carlos GAMARRA (Par)	17.02.71
23	Marco MATERAZZI	19.08.73
11	Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC (Ser)	20.02.69
26	Giovanni PASQUALE	05.01.82
4	Javier ZANETTI (Arg)	10.08.73
13	ZE MARIA (Bra)	25.07.73

MIDFIELDERS

17	Nicola BEATI	13.02.83
19	Esteban CAMBIASSO (Arg)	18.08.80
8	Edgar DAVIDS (Hol)	13.03.73
5	EMRE Belozoglu (Tur)	07.09.80
21	Giorgios KARAGOUNIS (Gre)	06.03.77
18	KILY GONZALEZ (Arg)	04.08.74
28	Mario REBECCHI	31.08.83
25	Dejan STANKOVIC (Ser)	11.09.78
7	Andy VAN DER MEYDE (Hol)	30.09.79
6	Cristiano ZANETTI	10.04.77

FORWARDS

10	ADRIANO (Bra)	17.02.82
99	Lambros CHOUTOS (Gre)	07.12.79
9	Julio CRUZ (Arg)	10.10.74
30	Obafemi MARTINS (Nig)	28.10.84
20	Alvaro RECOBA (Uru)	17.03.76
32	Christian VIERI	12.07.73

COACH

Roberto MANCINI	27.11.64

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS

22	Landry BONNEFOI (Fra)	20.09.83
1	Gianluigi BUFFON	28.01.78
12	Antonio CHIMENTI	30.06.70

DEFENDERS

15	Alessandro BIRINDELLI	12.11.74
28	Fabio CANNAVARO	13.09.73
2	Ciro FERRARA	11.02.67
13	Mark IULIANO	12.08.73
6	Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE	20.10.76
4	Paolo MONTERO (Uru)	03.09.71
7	Gianluca PESSOTTO	11.08.70
21	Lilian THURAM (Fra)	01.01.72
5	Igor TUDOR (Cro)	16.04.78
19	Gianluca ZAMBROTTA	19.02.77
27	Jonathan ZEBINA (Fra)	28.01.78

MIDFIELDERS

18	Stephan APPIAH (Gha)	24.12.80
20	Manuele BLASI	17.08.80
16	Mauro CAMORANESI	04.10.76
8	EMERSON (Bra)	04.04.76
23	Olivier KAPO (Fra)	27.09.80
11	Pavel NEDVED (Cze)	30.08.72
24	Ruben OLIVERA (Uru)	04.05.83
3	Alessio TACCHINARDI	23.07.75

FORWARDS

10	Alessandro DEL PIERO	09.11.74
9	Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Swe)	03.10.81
17	David TREZEGUET (Fra)	15.10.77
25	Marcelo ZALAYETA (Uru)	05.12.78

COACH

Fabio CAPELLO	18.06.46

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS

15	Fabrizio CASAZZA	16.09.70
1	Angelo PERUZZI	16.02.70
33	Matteo SERENI	11.02.75

DEFENDERS

37	Marco ANGELETTI	19.02.86
24	FERNANDO COUTO (Por)	02.08.69
28	Matias LEQUI (Arg)	13.05.81
4	Oscar LOPEZ	11.05.80
23	Paolo NEGRO	16.04.72
22	Massimo ODDO	14.06.76
25	Anthony SERIC (Cro)	15.01.79
5	Sebastiano SIVIGLIA	29.03.73
3	Jose TALAMONTI (Arg)	12.11.81
42	Fabio ZACCARDI	28.11.86
8	Luciano ZAURI	20.01.78

MIDFIELDERS

13	Dino BAGGIO	24.07.71
10	CESAR (Bra)	24.10.74
34	Emiliano CORSI	25.07.84
6	Ousmane DABO (Fra)	08.02.77
36	Alessio FERRAZZA	26.01.86
7	Antonio FILIPPINI	03.07.73
14	Emanuele FILIPPINI	03.07.73
16	Giuliano GIANNICHEDDA	21.09.74
26	Esteban GONZALEZ (Arg)	16.09.78
20	Fabio LIVERANI	29.04.76
17	Christian MANFREDINI	01.05.75
31	Fabrizio MELARA	06.05.86
27	Bryan ROBERT (Arg)	08.02.84

FORWARDS

9	Paolo DI CANIO	09.07.68
21	Simone INZAGHI	05.04.76
11	Roberto MUZZI	21.09.71
19	Goran PANDEV (Mac)	27.07.83
18	Tommaso ROCCHI	19.09.77

COACH

Domenico CASO	09.05.54

LECCE

GOALKEEPERS

27	Luca ANANIA	21.06.80
22	Antonio ROSATI	26.03.83
1	Vincenzo SICIGNANO	08.07.74

DEFENDERS

81	Giuseppe ABRUZZESE	17.05.81
30	Alessandro CAMISA	13.04.85
2	Souleymane DIAMOUTENE (Mli)	30.01.83
26	Massimo PACI	09.05.78
19	Cristian SILVESTRI	21.01.75
21	Lorenzo STOVINI	24.11.76

MIDFIELDERS

77	Marco CASSETTI	29.05.77
8	Samuele DALLA BONA	06.02.81
4	Drissa DIARRA (IvC)	07.05.85
7	Alexei EREMENKO (Fin)	24.03.83
18	Guillermo GIACOMAZZI (Uru)	21.11.77
17	Davide GIORGINO	04.05.85
24	Cristian LEDESMA (Arg)	24.09.82
23	Francesco MARIANINI	06.05.79
31	Alex PINARDI	05.09.80

FORWARDS

13	BABU (Bra)	23.12.80
28	Sasa BJELANOVIC (Cro)	11.06.79
10	Valeri BOJINOV (Bul)	15.02.86
25	Axel Cedric KONAN	05.01.83
14	Italo MATTIOLI	17.04.85
20	Graziano PELLE	15.07.85
9	Mirko VUCINIC (Ser)	01.10.83

COACH

Zdenek ZEMAN (Cze)	12.05.47

LIVORNO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Marco AMELIA	02.04.82
22	Gianmatteo MAREGGINI	08.01.67
84	Luca MAZZONI	29.03.84

DEFENDERS

69	David BALLERI	28.03.69
6	Fabio GALANTE	20.11.73
16	Andrea GIALLOMBARDO	19.08.80
7	Alessandro GRANDONI	22.07.77
5	Alessandro LUCARELLI	22.07.77
79	Matteo MELARA	08.07.79
8	Marc PFERTZEL (Fra)	21.05.81
13	Jorge VARGAS (Chl)	08.02.76

MIDFIELDERS

21	Nicolas CORDOVA (Chl)	09.01.79
15	Alessandro DOGA	15.10.75
29	Alessandro EVANGELISTI	29.05.81
3	Alessandro GAMBADORI	03.01.81
14	Claudio GRAUSO	18.03.79
17	Emmanuel OSEI (Gha)	23.08.82
28	Dario PASSONI	09.02.74
67	Gennaro RUOTOLO	20.03.67
4	Jose VIDIGAL (Por)	15.03.73
20	Luca VIGIANI	25.08.76

FORWARDS

23	Corrado COLOMBO	03.08.79
9	Tomas DANILEVICIUS (Lit)	18.07.78
99	Cristiano LUCARELLI	04.10.75
10	Igor PROTTI	24.09.67

COACH

Franco COLOMBA	06.02.55

MESSINA

GOALKEEPERS

21	Dimitrios ELEFTHEROPOULOS (Gre)	08.07.76
1	Marco STORARI	07.11.77

DEFENDERS

6	Salvatore ARONICA	20.01.78
16	Mirko CONTE	12.08.74
25	Luca FUSCO	31.08.77
19	Alessandro PARISI	15.04.77
32	RAFAEL (Bra)	13.03.80
2	Rahman REZAEI (Irn)	20.02.75
27	Marco ZANCHI	15.04.77
8	Marco ZORO KPOLO (IvC)	27.12.83

MIDFIELDERS

13	Raffaele AMETRANO	05.02.73
24	Carmine COPPOLA	10.01.79
30	Alessandro CUCCIARI	11.09.69
5	Massimo DONATI	26.03.81
17	Domenico GIAMPA	15.02.77
7	Panagiotis GONIAS (Gre)	06.10.71
23	MAMEDE (Por)	24.02.74
41	Salvatore SULLO	23.10.71

FORWARDS

18	Nicola AMORUSO	29.08.74
11	Arturo DI NAPOLI	09.12.73
10	Ivica ILIEV (Ser)	27.10.79
20	Atsushi YANAGISAWA (Jap)	27.05.77
9	Riccardo ZAMPAGNA	15.11.74

COACH

Bortolo MUTTI	11.08.54

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS

17	Christian ABBIATI	08.07.77
1	DIDA (Bra)	07.10.73
12	Valerio FIORI	27.04.69

DEFENDERS

2	CAFU (Bra)	07.06.70
19	Fabricio COLOCCINI (Arg)	22.01.82
5	Alessandro COSTACURTA	24.04.66
4	Kakha KALADZE (Geo)	27.02.78
3	Paolo MALDINI	26.06.68
13	Alessandro NESTA	19.03.76
26	Giuseppe PANCARO	26.08.71
14	Dario SIMIC (Cro)	12.11.75
31	Jaap STAM (Hol)	17.07.72

MIDFIELDERS

23	Massimo AMBROSINI	29.05.77
32	Cristian BROCCHI	30.01.76
24	Vikash DHORASOO (Fra)	10.10.73
8	Gennaro GATTUSO	09.01.78
21	Andrea PIRLO	19.05.79
10	Manuel RUI COSTA (Por)	29.03.72
20	Clarence SEEDORF (Hol)	01.04.76
27	SERGINHO (Bra)	27.06.71

FORWARDS

11	Hernan CRESPO (Arg)	05.07.75
9	Filippo INZAGHI	09.08.73
22	KAKA (Bra)	22.04.82
7	Andrii SHEVCHENKO (Ukr)	29.09.76
15	Jon Dahl TOMASSON (Den)	29.08.76

COACH

Carlo ANCELOTTI	10.06.59

PALERMO

GOALKEEPERS

84	Paolo COMI	05.03.84
99	Matteo GUARDALBEN	
1	Nicola SANTONI	18.10.79

DEFENDERS

13	Pietro ACCARDI	12.09.82
30	ADRIANO (Bra)	03.04.82
43	Andrea BARZAGLI	08.05.81
1	Giuseppe BIAVA	08.05.77
25	Kewullay CONTEH (SLe)	31.12.77
81	Michele FERRI	29.05.81
6	Christian TERLIZZI	25.11.79
2	Cristian ZACCARDO	21.12.81

MIDFIELDERS

8	Simone BARONE	30.04.78
90	Franco BRIENZA	19.03.79
5	Eugenio CORINI	30.07.70
46	Andrea GASBARRONI	06.08.81
19	Mariano GONZALEZ (Arg)	05.05.81
11	Fabio GROSSO	28.11.77
4	Stefano MORRONE	26.10.78
22	Massimo MUTARELLI	13.01.78
20	Cristian RAIMONDI	30.04.81
18	Mario SANTANA (Arg)	23.12.81
10	Lamberto ZAULI	19.07.71

FORWARDS

7	Ernesto FARIAS (Arg)	29.05.80
9	Luca TONI	20.05.77

COACH

Francesco GUIDOLIN	03.10.55

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluca BERTI	20.05.67
31	Alfonso DE LUCIA	12.11.83
17	Sebastien FREY (Fra)	18.03.80
22	Giordano VANIN	19.08.85

DEFENDERS

5	Daniele BONERA	31.05.81
4	Cesare BOVO	14.01.83
29	Ibrahima CAMARA (Gui)	01.01.85
28	Paolo CANNAVARO	26.06.81
3	Giuseppe CARDONE	03.03.74
14	Matteo CONTINI	16.04.80
26	Damiano FERRONETTI	01.11.84
25	Alberto GALUPPPO	19.08.85
77	Alessandro POTENZA	08.03.84

MIDFIELDERS

6	Jorge BOLANO (Col)	28.04.77
23	Mark BRESCIANO (Aus)	11.02.80
8	Alessandro BUDEL	25.02.81
33	Vincenzo GRELLA (Aus)	05.10.79
32	Marco MARCHIONNI	22.07.80
10	Domenico MORFEO	16.01.76
20	Alessandro ROSINA	31.01.87
15	Filippo SAVI	29.01.87
30	Fabio SIMPLICIO	23.09.79
7	Ianis ZICU (Rom)	23.10.83

FORWARDS

13	Daniele DEGANO	21.09.82
24	Alex GIBBS	25.01.84
11	Alberto GILARDINO	05.07.82
21	Gaetano GRIECO	07.11.82
9	Massimo MACCARONE	06.09.79
19	Andrea PISANU	07.01.82
8	Francesco RUOPOLO	20.03.83
27	Tonino SORRENTINO	12.03.85

COACH

Silvio BALDINI	11.09.58

REGGINA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Nicola PAVARINI	24.02.74
8	Salvatore SOVIERO	18.07.73

DEFENDERS

3	Jacopo BALESTRI	21.06.75
2	Juriy CANNARSA	22.04.76
31	Francesco COSENZA	05.02.86
29	Gaetano DE ROSA	10.05.73
14	Ivan FRANCESCHINI	07.12.76
26	Giovanni MORABITO	26.01.78
4	Felice PICCOLO	27.08.83
34	Gaetano UNGARO	21.09.87

MIDFIELDERS

88	Ivan CASTIGLIA	06.01.88
18	Giuseppe COLUCCI	24.08.80
23	Ricardo ESTEVES (Por)	16.09.79
20	Giandomenico MESTO	25.05.82
22	MOZART (Bra)	08.11.79
10	Shunsuke NAKAMURA (Jap)	24.06.78
5	Carlos PAREDES (Par)	16.07.76
19	Giacomo TEDESCO	01.02.76
7	Ricardo Matias VERON (Arg)	22.01.81
35	Bartolomeo VERSACE	03.04.86

FORWARDS

21	Emiliano BONAZZOLI	20.10.79
9	Marco BORRIELLO	18.06.82
26	Davide DIONIGI	10.01.74
11	Massimo GANCI	17.11.81
32	Simone MISSIROLI	23.05.86

COACH

Walter MAZZARRI	01.10.61

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluca CURCI	12.07.85
22	Ivan PELIZZOLI	18.11.80
33	Pietro PIPOLO	02.02.86
12	Carlo ZOTTI	03.09.82

DEFENDERS

27	Andrea BRIOTTI	02.05.86
32	Vincent CANDELA (Fra)	24.10.73
13	Cristian CHIVU (Rom)	26.10.80
25	Leandro CUFRE (Arg)	09.05.78
31	Traianos DELLAS (Gre)	31.01.76
8	Matteo FERRARI	12.05.79
3	Philippe MEXES (Fra)	30.03.82
2	Christian PANUCCI	12.04.73
7	Luigi SARTOR	30.01.75
19	Giuseppe SCURTO	01.05.84

MIDFIELDERS

23	Alberto AQUILANI	07.07.84
15	Olivier DACOURT (Fra)	25.09.74
21	Gaetano D'AGOSTINO	03.06.82
29	Rafaele DE MARTINO	08.04.86
4	Daniele DE ROSSI	24.07.83
30	Alessandro MANCINI (Bra)	01.08.80
20	Simone PERROTTA	17.09.77
17	Damiano TOMMASI	17.05.74

FORWARDS

18	Antonio CASSANO	12.07.82
26	Alessio CERCI	23.07.87
11	Daniele CORVIA	22.11.84
24	Marco DELVECCHIO	07.04.73
99	Ahmed HOSSAM (Egy)	23.02.83
9	Vincenzo MONTELLA	18.06.74
10	Francesco TOTTI	27.09.76
28	Valerio VIRGA	29.06.86

COACH

Luigi DEL NERI	23.08.50

SAMPDORIA

GOALKEEPERS

21	Francesco ANTONIOLI	14.09.69
12	Daniele PADELLI	25.10.85
1	Luigi TURCI	27.01.70

DEFENDERS

2	Ivan ARTIPOLI	24.03.86
	Stefano BETTARINI	06.02.72
5	Moris CARROZZIERI	16.11.80
14	Marcello CASTELLINI	02.01.73
19	Giulio FALCONE	31.05.74
32	Simone PAVAN	29.04.74
26	Marco PISANO	13.08.81
72	Stefano SACCHETTI	10.08.72
77	Cristiano ZENONI	23.04.77

MIDFIELDERS

	Luca ANTONINI	
23	Aimo DIANA	02.01.78
15	Marco DONADEL	21.04.83
27	Cristiano DONI	01.04.73
8	Mark EDUSEI (Gha)	29.09.76
75	Vincenzo IACOPINO	09.08.76
7	Biagio PAGANO	29.01.83
17	Angelo PALOMBO	25.09.81
22	Max TONETTO	18.11.74
4	Sergio VOLPI	02.02.74

FORWARDS

9	Fabio BAZZANI	20.10.76
10	Francesco FLACHI	08.04.75
13	Vitali KUTUZOV (Bls)	20.03.80
20	Fausto ROSSINI	02.03.78

COACH

Walter NOVELLINO	04.06.53

SIENA

GOALKEEPERS

14	Marco FORTIN	08.07.74
1	Alex MANNINGER (Aut)	04.06.77
13	Adriano ZANCOPE	09.11.71

DEFENDERS

5	Bruno CIRILLO	21.03.77
33	Francesco COLONNESE	10.08.71
3	Gianluca FALSINI	02.10.75
18	Paolo FOGLIO	08.09.75
4	Michele MIGNANI	30.04.72
2	Davide NICOLA	05.03.73
90	Daniele PORTANOVA	17.12.78

MIDFIELDERS

22	Andrea ARDITO	08.01.77
8	Stefano ARGILLI	05.01.73
79	Alfonso CAMORANI	21.02.78
20	David CHIUMIENTO	22.11.84
23	Roberto D'AVERSA	12.08.75
19	Daniele DI DONATO	21.02.77
65	Gennaro ESPOSITO	18.03.85
11	Fernando MENEGAZZO (Bra)	05.03.81
39	Fabio PECCHIA	24.08.73
6	Simone VERGASSOLA	24.01.76

FORWARDS

76	Marco CARPARELLI	04.06.76
10	Enrico CHIESA	29.12.70
7	Mattia GRAFFIEDI	26.05.80
9	Tore Andre FLO (Nor)	15.06.73
26	Matteo SERAFINI	21.04.78

COACH

Luigi SIMONI	22.01.39

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS

37	Adriano Jorge BONAIUTI	07.05.67
1	Morgan DE SANCTIS	26.03.75
24	Samir HANDANOVIC (Sln)	14.07.84

DEFENDERS

77	Manuel BELLERI	29.07.77
4	Valerio BERTOTTO	15.01.73
3	EMILSON (Bra)	06.03.80
19	FELIPE Dal Belo (Bra)	31.07.84
2	Per KROLDRUP (Den)	31.07.79
20	Nestor SENSINI (Arg)	12.10.66

MIDFIELDERS

22	ALBERTO (Bra)	22.03.75
27	Jose Ricardo DE VACA (Par)	19.09.82
6	Marek JANKULOVSKI (Cze)	09.05.77
23	Stefano MAURI	08.01.80
18	Ali Sulley MUNTARI (Gha)	28.08.84
21	Michele PAZIENZA	05.08.82
26	Mirko PIERI	24.07.78
13	Giampiero PINZI	11.03.81
8	David PIZARRO (Chl)	09.09.79

FORWARDS

17	David DI MICHELE	06.01.76
10	Antonio DI NATALE	13.10.77
11	Dino FAVA	16.03.77
84	Henok GOITOM (Swe)	22.09.84
9	Vincenzo IAQUINTA	21.11.79

COACH

Luciano SPALLETTI	07.03.59

ALBACETE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Roland GASPERCIC (Blg)	09.05.69
25	Raul VALBUENA	23.04.75

DEFENDERS

22	Miguel BUADES	04.03.80
23	Jordi FERRON	15.08.78
5	GASPAR Galvez	07.07.79
3	MINGO	10.06.77
2	OSCAR Montiel Marin	06.07.70
19	Francisco PENA	25.07.78
6	RUBEN Gonzelez	29.01.82
12	Gustavo Lionel SIVIERO (Arg)	13.09.69

MIDFIELDERS

18	ALVARO Rubio	18.04.79
16	DAVID SANCHEZ Rodriguez	25.01.82
11	Mark GONZALEZ (Chl)	10.07.84
10	IVAN DIAZ Ruiz	10.07.78
13	JAIME Sanchez	20.03.73
8	Abass LAWAL (Nig)	13.09.80
24	MOMO	15.07.82
17	Pablo REDONDO Martinez	17.04.82
4	Laurent VIAUD (Fra)	08.10.69

FORWARDS

9	Ruben CASTRO Martin	27.06.81
7	FRANCISCO Javier	17.09.78
14	LUISMI	18.07.83
21	MIKEL	26.08.74
20	Antonio PACHECO (Uru)	11.04.76

COACH

Jose GONZALEZ	14.10.66

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS

13	Daniel ARANZUBIA	18.09.79
1	Inaki LAFUENTE	24.01.76

DEFENDERS

2	Javier CASAS	09.05.82
24	CESAR Fernandez	10.05.78
3	Asier DEL HORNO	19.01.81
15	Andoni IRAOLA	22.06.82
11	JAVI GONZALEZ Gomez	22.03.74
4	Aitor KARANKA	18.08.73
12	Jesus Maria LACRUZ	25.04.78
14	LUIS PRIETO	19.02.79
19	Ander MURILLO	22.07.83

MIDFIELDERS

26	Igor ANGULO Alboniga	26.01.84
7	Endika BORDAS	08.03.82
5	FELIPE Gurendez	18.11.75
8	Julen GUERRERO	07.01.74
18	Carlos GURPEGI	19.08.80
21	JONAN GARCIA	08.01.83
16	Pablo ORBAIZ	06.02.79
6	OSCAR VALES Varela	13.09.74
23	TIKO	15.09.76
10	Francisco YESTE	06.12.79

FORWARDS

22	Joseba ARRIAGA	28.07.82
25	Gorka AZKORRA	25.01.83
17	Joseba ETXEBERRIA	05.09.77
9	Santiago EZQUERRO	14.12.76
20	Ismael URZAIZ	07.10.71

COACH

Ernesto VALVERDE	09.02.64

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

27	Ivan CUELLAR	25.05.84
25	LEO FRANCO (Arg)	20.05.77
1	SERGIO ARAGONESES	01.02.77

DEFENDERS

3	ANTONIO LOPEZ	13.09.81
5	Jose Antonio GARCIA CALVO	01.04.75
26	Francisco Jose MOLINERO	26.07.85
22	PABLO Ibanez	03.08.81
21	Luis Amaranto PEREA (Col)	30.01.79
6	SANTI	09.03.74
12	SERGI Barjuan	28.12.71
2	Juan VELASCO	17.05.77

MIDFIELDERS

15	Carlos AGUILERA Martin	22.05.69
4	Gonzalo COLSA	11.05.77
18	Ariel Miguel IBAGAZA (Arg)	27.10.76
10	JORGE Larena-Avellaneda	29.08.81
23	Peter LUCCIN (Fra)	09.04.79
8	Kiki MUSAMPA (Hol)	20.07.77
24	Alvaro NOVO	16.05.78
14	Diego SIMEONE (Arg)	28.04.70
7	Marcelo SOSA (Uru)	02.06.78

FORWARDS

9	FERNANDO TORRES	20.03.84
29	MANU	25.02.84
20	Veljko PAUNOVIC (Ser)	26.04.77
19	SALVA Ballesta	22.05.75

COACH

CESAR FERRANDO	25.07.59

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS

25	Albert JORQUERA	03.03.79
1	VICTOR VALDES Arribas	14.01.82

DEFENDERS

2	Juliano BELLETTI (Bra)	20.06.76
15	EDMILSON (Bra)	10.07.76
19	FERNANDO NAVARRO	25.06.82
4	Rafael MARQUEZ (Mex)	13.02.79
23	OLEGUER Presas	02.02.80
5	Carles PUYOL	13.04.78
16	SILVINHO (Bra)	12.04.74
12	Giovanni VAN BRONCKHORST (Hol)	05.03.75

MIDFIELDERS

20	DECO (Por)	27.08.77
18	GABRI	10.02.79
14	GERARD Lopez	12.03.79
24	Andres INIESTA	11.05.85
3	Thiago MOTTA (Bra)	28.08.82
6	XAVI	25.01.80

FORWARDS

9	Samuel ETO'O (Cam)	10.03.81
8	Ludovic GIULY (Fra)	10.07.76
7	Henrik LARSSON (Swe)	20.09.79
10	RONALDINHO (Bra)	21.03.80

COACH

Frank RIJKAARD (Hol)	30.09.62

BETIS

GOALKEEPERS

13	Pedro CONTRERAS	07.01.72
30	Antonio DOBLAS	05.08.80
1	Tony PRATS	09.09.71

DEFENDERS

22	Paolo CASTELLINI (Ita)	25.03.79
4	JUANITO Gutierrez	23.07.76
3	Alejandro LEMBO (Uru)	15.02.78
2	LUIS FERNANDEZ Gutierrez	29.09.72
27	MELLI	06.06.84
25	Juan PABLO NINO	15.05.78
5	David RIVAS	02.12.78
18	Washington TAIS (Uru)	21.12.72
7	Fernando VARELA	01.09.79

MIDFIELDERS

8	Arturo Garcia Munoz, ARZU	17.03.81
23	BENJAMIN Zarandona	02.03.76
10	Juan Jose CANAS	17.05.72
14	Jesus Capitan Prada, CAPI	26.03.77
11	DENILSON de Oliveira (Bra)	24.08.77
9	FERNANDO Miguel	02.06.79
17	JOAQUIN Sanchez	21.07.81
20	MARCOS ASSUNCAO (Bra)	25.07.76

FORWARDS

21	ALFONSO Perez	29.09.72
6	DANI	16.09.81
24	EDU (Bra)	10.01.79
16	ISMAEL Lopez	27.02.78
12	Ricardo OLIVEIRA (Bra)	06.05.80
19	Jorge Lopez Marco, TOTE	23.11.78

COACH

Lorenzo SERRA FERRER	

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

GOALKEEPERS

25	DANI MALLO Castro	25.01.79
1	Jose Francisco MOLINA	08.08.70
13	Gustavo MUNUA (Uru)	27.01.78

DEFENDERS

15	Joan CAPDEVILA	03.02.78
5	CESAR Martin	03.04.77
24	HECTOR Berenguel	11.10.74
14	JORGE ANDRADE (Por)	04.09.78
2	MANUEL PABLO Garcia	25.01.76
20	PABLO AMO Aguado	15.01.78
3	Enrique Fernandez ROMERO	23.06.71

MIDFIELDERS

4	Aldo Pedro DUSCHER (Arg)	22.03.79
10	FRAN	14.07.69
6	MAURO SILVA (Bra)	12.01.68
12	Lionel SCALONI (Arg)	16.05.78
8	SERGIO Gonzalez	10.11.76
21	Juan Carlos VALERON	17.06.75
18	VICTOR Sanchez	23.02.76

FORWARDS

22	CHANGUI	10.04.77
9	DIEGO TRISTAN Herrera	05.01.76
19	Alberto LUQUE	11.03.78
11	Pedro MUNITIS	19.06.75
7	Walter PANDIANI (Uru)	27.04.76

COACH

Javier IRURETA	01.04.48

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS

13	Idris Carlos KAMENI (Cam)	18.02.84
1	Erwin LEMMENS (Blg)	12.05.75

DEFENDERS

27	Marc BERTRAN	22.05.82
3	DAVID GARCIA De la Cruz	16.01.81
18	Didier DOMI (Fra)	02.05.78
2	HUGO IBARRA (Arg)	01.04.74
4	Alberto LOPO	05.05.80
17	Oscar MINAMBRES	01.02.81
28	OSCAR SERRANO Rodriguez	30.09.81
5	Antonio SOLDEVILLA	19.09.78

MIDFIELDERS

22	ALEX FERNANDEZ Sanchez	14.02.74
24	Jose Emilio AMAVISCA	19.06.71
20	Ferran COROMINAS	05.01.83
9	Ivan DE LA PENA	06.05.76
15	FREDSON (Bra)	22.02.81
30	HECTOR SIMON Escudero	13.03.84
14	ITO	21.01.75
31	JONATHAN Soriano	24.09.85
8	Angel MORALES	13.07.75
7	Antonio VELAMAZAN	22.01.77

FORWARDS

19	Daniel Garcia Lara, DANI	22.12.74
11	MARTIN POSSE	20.08.75
10	Maximiliano RODRIGUEZ (Arg)	01.01.81
23	Raul TAMUDO	19.10.77

COACH

Miguel Angel LOTINA	18.06.57

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS

13	Javier SANCHEZ BROTO	25.08.71
1	SERGIO SANCHEZ Sanchez	28.04.77

DEFENDERS

14	Ivan AMAYA	03.09.78
19	David BELENGUER	17.12.72
3	Mariano PERNIA (Arg)	04.05.77
	Ruben PULIDO	02.02.79
20	QUIQUE MEDINA Ortega	14.09.74
23	Manuel TENA	03.02.78
25	Martin VITALI (Arg)	11.11.78
2	Jose Manuel YANGUAS	20.06.72

MIDFIELDERS

5	David CUBILLO	06.01.78
6	DIEGO RIVAS Gutierrez	27.04.80
	GABI	10.07.83
21	Francisco GALLARDO	13.01.80
22	Daniel KOME (Cam)	17.05.80
18	MARIO COTELO	10.02.75
15	RAUL ALBIOL Tortajada	04.09.85
16	Angel VIVAR DORADO	12.02.74

FORWARDS

11	ALBERTO Ruiz	27.12.77
8	Gheorghe CRAIOVEANU (Rom)	14.02.68
7	MICHEL	03.08.77
17	Valentin PACHON	05.02.77
24	RIKI	11.08.80
9	YORDI	14.09.74

COACH

QUIQUE Sanchez FLORES	02.02.65

LEVANTE

GOALKEEPERS

25	Jose Ignacio AIZPURUNA	05.05.70
13	Diego CAMACHO	01.10.76
1	Jose Luis MORA	12.07.73

DEFENDERS

3	ALEXIS Suarez	06.03.74
24	Jose Antonio CULEBRAS	16.01.79
23	Inaki DESCARGA	25.08.76
4	FELIX Carballo	04.01.68
2	Ian HARTE (Ire)	31.08.77
21	JESULE	26.05.73
5	Johan MJALLBY (Swe)	09.02.71
14	Pablo PINILLOS	09.07.74
6	Luis Manuel RUBIALES	23.08.77

MIDFIELDERS

12	Fabio CELESTINI (Swi)	31.10.75
7	Felix ETTIEN	26.09.79
11	JOFRE Mateu	24.01.80
20	JUANMA	29.05.81
15	NACHO	24.06.80
8	Alberto RIVERA	19.02.78
22	SANDRO	14.10.74

FORWARDS

16	Edwin CONGO (Col)	07.10.76
10	Angel CUELLAR	13.09.72
18	Vladimir MANCHEV (Bul)	10.06.77
19	Gustavo Enrique REGGI (Arg)	28.05.73
9	SERGIO GARCIA	09.06.83
17	SERVULO Munoz	27.04.79

COACH

Bernd SCHUSTER (Ger)	22.12.59

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Francesc ARNAU	23.03.75
13	Juan CALATAYUD	21.12.79

DEFENDERS

19	FERNANDO SANZ Duran	04.01.74
23	Raul IZNATA	21.09.77
5	JUANITO	17.02.80
4	LITOS (Por)	08.09.69
19	Vicente VALCARCE	19.10.74

MIDFIELDERS

20	DUDA (Por)	27.06.80
7	GERARDO Garcia	07.12.74
6	Federico INSUA (Arg)	03.01.80
22	JUAN Antonio RODRIGUEZ	01.04.82
18	Ivan LEKO (Cro)	07.02.78
16	Juan Jose LUQUE	16.01.77
15	MANU	25.01.79
21	MIGUEL ANGEL Lozana	16.09.78
14	Marcelo Clever ROMERO (Uru)	04.07.76

FORWARDS

9	Marcio AMOROSO (Bra)	05.07.74
10	EDGAR (Por)	07.08.77
11	Paulo WANCHOPE (CR)	31.07.76

COACH

Gregorio MANZANO	05.08.76

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS

25	ALBERTO Cifuentes	29.05.79
1	Miguel Angel MOYA	02.04.84
13	Sander WESTERVELD (Hol)	23.10.74

DEFENDERS

22	Sergio BALLESTEROS	04.09.75
8	David CORTES	29.08.79
20	Miguel Angel NADAL	28.07.66
5	Fernando NINO Bejara	16.09.74
16	POLI	20.03.77
3	Ivan RAMIS	25.10.84

MIDFIELDERS

11	Juan Fernando ARANGO (Mex)	15.05.80
7	Alejandro CAMPANO	29.12.78
10	Francisco FARINOS	29.03.78
18	MARCOS Martin	17.09.68
14	MARCOS VALES	05.04.75
15	Patrick MULLER (Swi)	17.12.76
4	Guillermo PEREYRA (Arg)	20.02.80

FORWARDS

21	Fernando CORREA (Uru)	06.01.74
23	Andrija DELIBASIC (Ser)	24.04.81
19	JESUS PERERA Lopez	12.04.80
9	LUIS GARCIA Fernandez	06.02.81
12	TUNI	14.06.82

COACH

Hector CUPER (Arg)	16.11.55

NUMANCIA

GOALKEEPERS

13	ALVARO Adrian NUNEZ (Uru)	11.05.73
1	JUANMA	27.06.80

DEFENDERS

5	ANTONIO Jose Gonzalez	28.12.72
2	Patricio Andres GRAFF (Arg)	18.11.75
17	JAIME MOLINA Mata	15.03.69
21	JUANPA	28.09.78
4	Juan Cruz OCHOA	04.03.79
6	PABLO SANZ Iniesta	30.08.73
3	Stephane PIGNOL (Fra)	03.01.77
23	Ramon ROS	02.02.81
15	Jesus Enrique VELASCO	23.04.75

MIDFIELDERS

10	CARLOS MERINO Gonzalez	15.03.80
11	JUANLU	08.05.80
8	MIGUEL PEREZ Aracil	28.05.80
14	Miguel Angel NUNEZ	06.04.79
18	Cesar PALACIOS	19.10.74

FORWARDS

22	LEE Chun-soo (SKo)	09.07.81
12	MIGUEL Angel	03.06.78
24	Aldo Arcangel OSORIO (Arg)	12.06.74
16	Julio PINEDA	07.10.72
9	Sergio SESTELO	19.08.78
7	Luis Garcia TEVENET	08.05.74
19	TOCHE	01.01.83

COACH

FRANCISCO Lopez Alfaro	01.11.62

OSASUNA

GOALKEEPERS

13	Juantxo ELIA	24.01.79
16	GONZALO Eraso	14.05.81
1	Ricardo SANZOL	08.04.76

DEFENDERS

3	Rafael CLAVERO	10.01.77
19	Enrique CORRALES	01.03.82
7	Cesar CRUCHAGA	26.01.74
6	Carlos Javier CUELLAR	23.08.81
17	Unai EXPOSITO	23.01.80
27	Javier HERREROS	18.12.84
2	Jose IZQUIERDO	03.08.80
14	JOSETXO	25.02.77
12	MIGUEL FLANO Bezunartea	19.08.84
8	Juan Manuel ORTIZ	01.03.82

MIDFIELDERS

16	DAVID LOPEZ Moreno	10.09.82
23	Ludovic DELPORTE (Fra)	06.02.80
5	Pablo GARCIA (Uru)	11.05.77
11	MOHA (Mor)	12.09.77
22	Inaki MUNOZ	02.07.78
10	Francisco PUNAL	06.09.75
21	VALDO	23.04.81
15	Pierre WEBO (Cam)	01.01.82

FORWARDS

20	John ALOISI (Aus)	05.02.76
4	IVAN ROSADO	24.04.74
9	Savo MILOSEVIC (Ser)	02.09.73
18	Richard MORALES (Uru)	21.02.75

COACH

Javier AGUIRRE (Mex)	01.12.58

RACING SANTANDER

GOALKEEPERS

1	Dudu AWAT (Isr)	17.10.77
13	Mauro NANNI LIMA (Uru)	12.07.79

DEFENDERS

21	AYOZE Diaz Diaz	25.05.82
5	CRISTIAN ALVAREZ (Arg)	09.01.78
23	JUANMA	13.01.77
22	Jose MORATON	14.07.79
3	ORIOL Lozarano	23.05.81
4	PABLO CASAR Bustillo	17.09.78
19	PEDRO LOPEZ Munoz	01.01.83
25	Alessandro PIERINI (Ita)	22.03.73

MIDFIELDERS

20	ANDERSON Silva (Bra)	28.08.82
15	Yossi BENAYOUN (Isr)	05.05.80
14	DIEGO MATEO Alustiza (Arg)	07.08.78
24	Sergio MATABUENA	12.02.79
8	Fernando MORAN	27.04.76
6	Mehdi NAFTI (Tun)	28.11.78
17	Libero PARRI	18.01.82
2	Hoalid REGRAGUI (Mor)	12.09.76
11	Mario REGUEIRO (Uru)	14.09.78

FORWARDS

9	David AGANZO	10.01.81
12	Angel Javier ARIZMENDI	03.03.84
10	JAVI GUERRERO	22.10.76
16	JONATHAN Valle	30.12.84
7	Jose MARQUES	04.12.84

COACH

Luis LUCAS ALCARAZ	21.06.66

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

1	Iker CASILLAS	20.05.81
13	CESAR Sanchez	02.09.71

DEFENDERS

4	BORJA Fernandez	14.01.81
6	IVAN HELGUERA	28.03.75
24	Alvaro MEJIA	18.01.82
2	MICHEL SALGADO	22.10.75
22	Francisco PAVON	09.01.80
15	RAUL BRAVO	14.04.81
3	ROBERTO CARLOS (Bra)	10.04.73
19	Walter SAMUEL (Arg)	22.03.78
18	Jonathan WOODGATE (Eng)	22.01.80

MIDFIELDERS

23	David BECKHAM (Eng)	02.05.75
20	Albert CELADES	29.09.75
10	Luis Filipe Madeira, FIGO (Por)	04.11.72
14	Jose Maria Gutierrez, GUTI	31.10.76
21	Santiago SOLARI (Arg)	07.10.76
5	Zinedine ZIDANE (Fra)	23.06.72

FORWARDS

8	Fernando MORIENTES	05.04.76
11	Michael OWEN (Eng)	14.12.79
7	RAUL Gonzalez	27.06.77
9	RONALDO (Bra)	22.09.76

COACH

Mariano GARCIA REMON	30.09.50

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS

1	ALBERTO	20.05.69
13	ASIER RIESGO	06.10.83
29	ZUBIAURRE	

DEFENDERS

5	Jeremie BRECHET (Fra)	14.08.79
27	Javier GARRIDO	15.03.85
7	Igor JAUREGI	29.04.74
6	Mikel LABAKA	10.08.80
14	Aitor LOPEZ REKARTE	18.08.75
3	LUIZ ALBERTO (Bra)	01.12.77
2	Fabiano ROSSATO (Bra)	27.08.77

MIDFIELDERS

18	Bittor ALKIZA	26.10.70
11	Mikel ARANBURU	18.02.79
10	Mikel ARTETA	26.05.82
20	Jose Javier BARKERO	27.04.79
17	Igor GABILONDO	10.02.79
8	Valeri KARPIN (Rus)	02.02.69
22	MIKEL ALONSO	16.05.80
16	Garikoitz URANGA	21.06.80
24	XABI PRIETO	29.08.83

FORWARDS

21	Oscar DE PAULA	31.05.75
9	Darko KOVACEVIC (Ser)	18.11.73
15	NIHAT Kahveci (Tur)	23.11.79
26	OSKITZ Estefanla Gil	12.10.86

COACH

Jose Maria AMORRORTU	22.07.53

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS

1	ESTEBAN Andres Suarez	27.06.75
13	Antonio NOTARIO	19.11.79

DEFENDERS

20	AITOR OCIO Carrion	28.11.76
6	ALVES (Bra)	06.05.83
3	DAVID Castero	26.01.74
2	JAVI NAVARRO	06.02.75
24	PABLO ALFARO	26.04.69
26	PABLO RUIZ	25.02.81
15	Juan Luis REDONDO	17.01.77
32	SERGIO RAMOS Garcia	30.03.86

MIDFIELDERS

21	ANTONIO LOPEZ Barrios	12.05.80
10	JULIO BAPTISTA (Bra)	01.10.81
8	FERNANDO SALES	12.09.77
22	JAVI CASQUERO	11.03.76
17	JESULI	24.01.78
31	JESUS NAVAS Gonzalez	21.11.85
23	JORDI Lopez	28.02.81
28	MARCO NAVAS	21.09.82
18	Jose Luis MARTI	28.04.75
27	Antonio PUERTA	26.11.84
11	RENATO (Bra)	15.05.79
29	Fernando THORICES	31.07.83
5	Gerardo TORRADO (Mex)	30.04.79

FORWARDS

14	ANTONITO	02.02.78
19	Carlos ARANDA	27.07.80
7	CARLOS Dominguez	18.09.76
9	Ariza MAKULULA	04.03.81
4	Dario SILVA (Uru)	02.11.72

COACH

Joaquin CAPARROS	18.10.55

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS

25	Ludovic BUTELLE (Fra)	03.04.83
1	Santiago CANIZARES	18.12.69
13	Andres PALOP	22.10.73

DEFENDERS

4	Roberto AYALA (Arg)	14.04.73
12	Marco CANEIRA (Por)	09.02.79
15	Amedeo CARBONI (Ita)	06.04.65
23	CURRO TORRES	27.12.76
17	DAVID NAVARRO Pedros	25.05.80
3	FABIO AURELIO (Bra)	24.09.79
5	Carlos MARCHENA	31.07.79
24	Emiliano MORETTI (Ita)	11.06.81
2	Mauricio PELLEGRINO (Arg)	05.10.71

MIDFIELDERS

21	Pablo Cesar AIMAR (Arg)	03.11.79
6	David ALBELDA	01.09.77
10	Miguel Angel ANGULO	23.03.77
8	Ruben BARAJA	11.07.75
22	Gonzalo DE LOS SANTOS (Uru)	19.07.76
7	Stefano FIORE (Ita)	24.04.75
19	Francisco Javier RUFETE	20.11.76
16	Mohamed SISSOKO (Fra)	22.01.85
14	VICENTE Rodriguez	16.07.81

FORWARDS

9	Bernardo CORRADI (Ita)	30.03.76
11	Marco DI VAIO (Ita)	15.07.76
20	MISTA	12.11.78
18	XISCO	05.08.80

COACH

Claudio RANIERI (Ita)	20.10.51

VILLARREAL

GOALKEEPERS

1	LOPEZ VALLEJO	22.09.75
26	Jose Manuel REINA	31.08.82

DEFENDERS

24	ARMANDO SA (Moz)	16.09.75
3	Rodolfo ARRUABARRENA (Arg)	20.07.75
14	HECTOR FONT	15.06.84
17	JAVI VENTA	13.12.75
22	Juan Manuel PENA	17.01.73
16	QUIQUE ALVAREZ	20.07.75
2	Gonzalo RODRIGUEZ (Arg)	10.04.84
30	VERZA	26.09.86

MIDFIELDERS

21	Sebastian BATTAGLIA (Arg)	08.11.80
11	Javier CALLEJA	12.05.78
4	Santi CAZORLA	12.12.84
6	JOSICO	06.01.75
8	Juan Roman RIQUELME (Arg)	24.06.78
20	ROGER Garcia	15.12.76
19	SENNA (Bra)	17.07.76
32	XISCO NADAL	27.06.86

FORWARDS

5	Diego FORLAN (Uru)	19.05.79
7	Jose Antonio GUAYRE	23.04.80
23	JOSE MARI Romero	10.12.78

COACH

Manuel PELLEGRINI (Chl)	16.09.53

ZARAGOZA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Cesar LAINEZ	10.04.77
13	LUIS GARCIA Conde	23.04.79
30	Jorge ZAPARAIN	26.04.84

DEFENDERS

5	ALVARO (Bra)	01.11.77
3	Agustin ARANZABAL	15.03.73
27	CAPI	02.04.81
24	CESAR JIMENEZ	28.11.77
4	Luis Carlos CUARTERO	17.08.75
6	Gabriel MILITO (Arg)	07.09.80
12	Delio Cesar TOLEDO (Par)	10.02.76

MIDFIELDERS

11	Juan Jose CAMACHO	02.08.80
28	GARCIA GRANERO	26.04.81
20	David GENERELO	11.08.82
17	Jose Maria MOVILLA	08.02.75
15	OSCAR Gonzalez	12.11.82
21	David PIRRI	12.02.74
14	Leonardo PONZIO (Arg)	24.01.82
23	Fernando SORIANO	24.09.79
26	Alberto ZAPATER	13.06.85

FORWARDS

	CANI	03.08.81
18	Goran DRULIC (Ser)	12.04.77
	Luciano GALLETTI (Arg)	09.04.80
19	JAVI MORENO	10.09.74
10	SAVIO Bortolini (Bra)	09.01.74
9	David VILLA	03.12.82

COACH

Victor MUNOZ	15.03.57

The price isn't right

Sponsors should be targeted in the Football DataCo dispute

Read all about it...the football fan is entitled to be kept up to date with events

ENGLISH FANS MAY not have noticed but the start of every season is accompanied by an increasingly agitated squabble between clubs and media. The issue, bluntly if simplistically, is censorship.

Newspapers, magazines and websites want to report in both text and graphics on the events of a football match in the Premier League and Football League whenever they so wish during those 90 minutes and immediately afterwards.

The leagues, through their jointly-controlled intermediary of Football DataCo Ltd, have been trying to dictate the precise, restricted moments at which information can be relayed during a game and prevent newspapers publishing pictures – including via websites and mobile phone services – until at least two hours after the final whistle.

Newspapers, represented in this fraught dispute by the Newspaper Publishers Association, have already fired unilateral warning shots at football's bows by dropping the names of competition sponsors from their reports and using pictures where sponsors' logos are obscured.

It's all reminiscent of a mildly similar dispute two years ago in which the print media eventually trampled all over racing.

'The leagues are trying to dictate the precise moments information can be relayed during a game'

The present stand-off could not have come at a more delicate time with Premiership attendances slipping for the first time in a decade to the accompaniment of the first serious rumblings of fan unrest at ticket prices.

A further complication is that the leagues' partner in Football DataCo is none other than the Press Association, which is Britain's sole national agency for the dissemination of general news and sports news.

So we have one section of the media (PA) tied up in an attempt to apply monopolistic power over a media industry that includes its own clients.

Football may be a funny game but this is plain barmy.

The ramifications, in case the clubs have not looked beyond their next balance sheets, are immense. I believe the time may be fast approaching when all print publications (for a start) study seriously the free advertising provided to football's sponsors.

This does not mean ignoring only the title support to the major two leagues from a financial institution and a soft drinks company. It could also mean the computer-easy elimination of shirt advert and kit manufacturer labels.

And that's not all.

Arsenal have signed a 15-year, £100million deal to plaster the name of an airline over their new stadium at Ashburton Grove. But the airline in question will be paying that money to Arsenal, not to the *Daily Mail* or the *Sunday Times* or the rest of the national press; not even to football's commercial broadcast partners such as ITV or Sky or BBC.

Why should any of them donate to this airline print space or air time? Arsenal, naturally, should capitalise to the full on their financial coup when they move to Ashburton Grove. But it's their deal, no one else's.

This may cause a rethink about the labelling of Bolton Wanderers' new home. Thus far it's been referred to by the sponsor's name. But that can change. Easily. A stadium's formal name is not necessarily carried over into the media. West Ham United play at the Boleyn Ground. But who uses that title? To the world at large the Hammers play at Upton Park, which is 'merely' the district.

From these perspectives it's perfectly correct to say that Bolton play at Burnden Way; it's also a vast improvement because it harks back to the club's Burnden Park traditions.

This historical continuity is one of football's greatest strengths and one of the reasons why readers here will generally find the Football League Cup called precisely that rather than by the name of a transient sponsor.

I am not being a Luddite. If sponsors pay to advertise in the relevant sports pages then it seems reasonable for that brand name to be attached to its competition in a relevant editorial place.

But the same rules should apply to broadcasting. Fans pay licence fees to help support the BBC, which is non-commercial. So why does the BBC, through its commentators both on TV and radio, give away these free plugs to football's sponsors? It's not as if

football is paying the BBC. It's the other way around for goodness' sake.

I accept that the BBC pays football for exclusive right to broadcast matches. But I do NOT accept that it should also be paying football for the forelock-tugging, boot-licking right to promote sponsors that pay the BBC nothing in return.

B******* and C******* must be laughing all the way to their banks. The trick is apparently too simple for anyone to see through it.

Here's another point about football sliding into the Thatcherite abyss of knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing: did you know that monthly magazines (such as this) must pay £1,502 for permission to publish Premier League and Football League fixtures, plus a further £940 to the Press Association (see above!) for supplying the information on a computer disk. That makes a grand total of £2,442, which, incidentally, is a near 200 per cent increase since 1996.

National papers are currently charged £3,118 for the fixtures and the same extra £940 for the disk.

These must be the most expensive disks on the market. Does it really cost that much for someone to flick their fingers over a keyboard for a second or so?

The costs for a website are even greater. For them, fixtures are priced at £8,725, topped off with an incredible £5,875 delivery charge. You could buy the entire van for that.

And I almost forgot – to get the Scottish fixtures costs at least half as much as the English.

How much do the Spanish and Italians charge? Easy: nothing. They believe that telling fans when and where matches are being played has a value all of its own.

Price and value…think about it.

Football has been allowed to get away with so much because the media is football-mad and because the national newspapers, in particular, with their dog-eat-dog ethos, are easy to play off against one another.

But if this is no longer the case then football will be the loser. The sport helps sell papers and magazines, certainly. But sport in general takes up only minority space and/or air time and football has to share even that.

It seems to me a little common sense would prevent serious damage to the game's image. After all, as we know nowadays, image is king.

Germany see red

Germany's national team had red faces after the Euro 2004 flop; now they are to get a red shirt to match. The German federation is ditching the old green alternative to the normal white shirt in favour of a red change shirt.

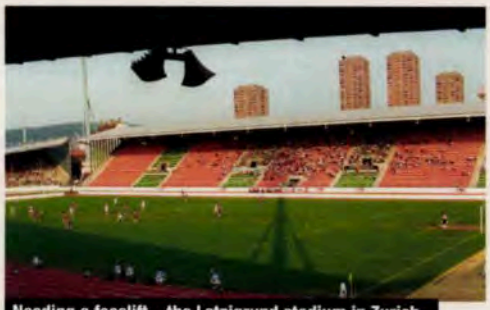
"It's a colour to match the aggressive style we expect from the team," said general manager Oliver Bierhoff. "To see a stadium decked out in red or orange, like South Korea or Holland, can be more intimidating than just a wall of white. It makes a statement."

The new shirt will probably make its debut in the Leipzig friendly on November 17 against Cameroon, who know a thing or two about kit tricks.

● Who says Barcelona and Real Madrid never see eye to eye? The old enemies shared the £80,000 cost of the private jet that brought Ronaldinho, Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo back together safe and sound from recent World Cup qualifying duty with Brazil.

● Parma are not out of the Parmalat wood yet. The club were quickly shifted out of the clutches of the insolvency brigade after the £10million collapse of the Tanzi family's murky dairy-product multinational. Preliminary fraud hearings have opened against 32 individuals and associate companies. The hurried junking of the former UEFA and European Cup-winners Cup winners may return to the agenda.

● One man would NOT have been upset by Jacques Santini's refusal to pay public tribute to Bill Nicholson: the late Tottenham manager himself. On the day of Billy Nick's death the Frenchman preferred, after the home defeat by Bolton, to shut himself away in his office and study the match video. That is the sort of professionalism which made Nicholson a managerial giant.



Needing a facelift…the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich

● UEFA's warning that it might rescind the Euro 2008 hosting rights award to Austria and Switzerland has concentrated minds wonderfully. Embarrassingly for UEFA the cause for concern lay in Zurich – where FIFA, of course, is headquartered. Residents successfully resisted plans to redevelop the Hardturm stadium as one of the necessary minimum of eight stadia. Now the Swiss federation and city planners hope to save the day (and the finals) by redeveloping Grasshopper's Letzigrund stadium instead.

● Real Madrid president Florentino Perez counts success in cash not cups. Marketing income has doubled since David Beckham's arrival and is expected, this season, to top £90million. Of course, if Perez expects Jonathan Woodgate's distant debut to fire a matching effect he may be in for a shock.

● Belgian football has adjusted to the Ivory Coast enclave at Beveren. Now the trend is spreading. A Cameroon-reliant club, Planet FC, have claimed a place in Singapore's championship after defeating an S-League XI 3-1 in the Final of a mini tournament in Thailand. Even better, Planet are offering a £350,000 pledge to guarantee stability.

True professional…Santini's actions would have earned Nicholson's approval

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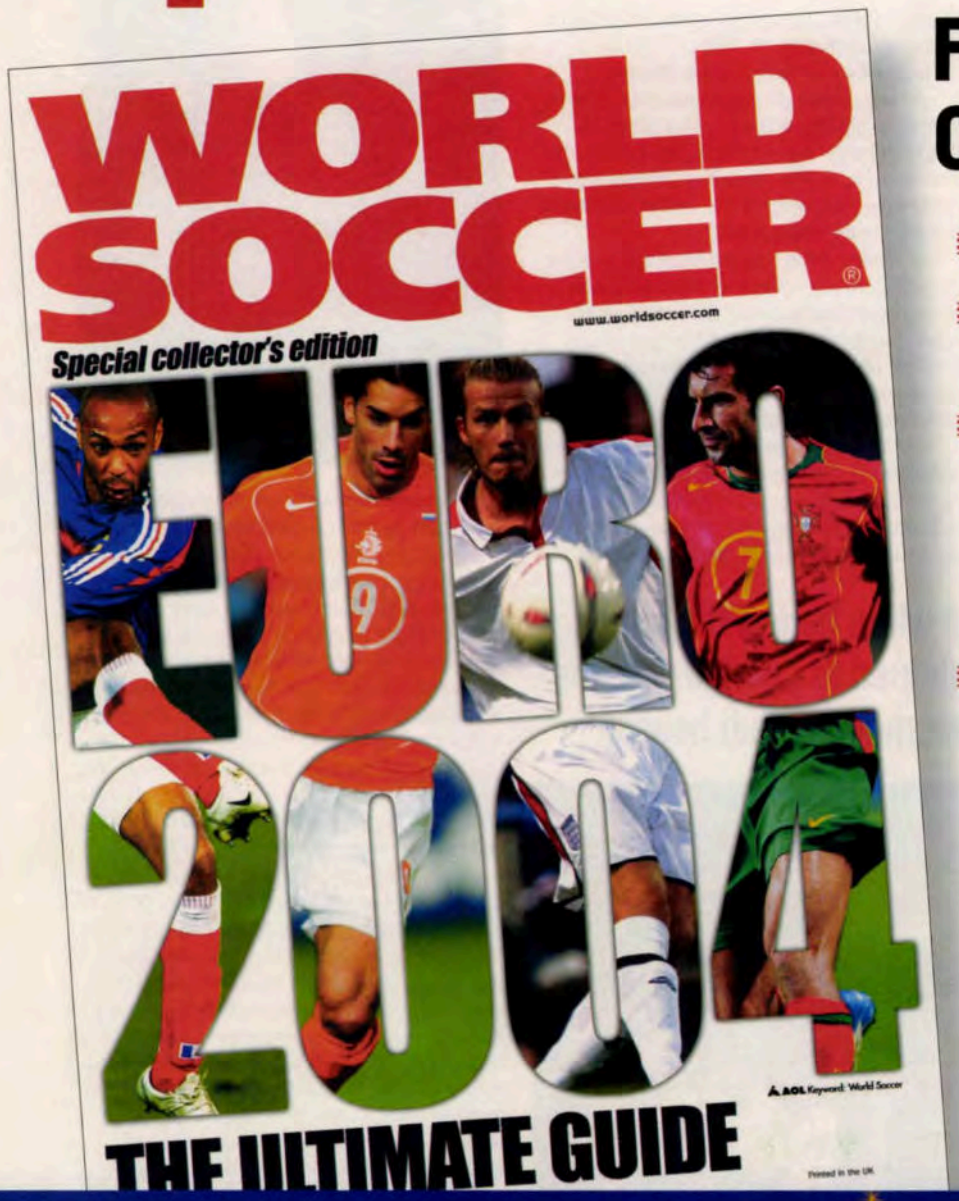

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FOOTBALL MEMORIES

Brian Glanville pays tribute to the late, great Tottenham manager Bill Nicholson

Hotspur hero

THE DEATH, at 85, of Bill Nicholson evoked so many memories. Effectively, he spanned two greatly disparate eras in English life.

He was born in Scarborough in a family of modest means, with a father who worked as a groom in the winter and drove a horse and buggy along the sea front in the summer.

The essence of Nicholson is that he never expected much from life. Certainly, he seemed to have no great hopes of the fine career as a professional footballer that awaited him, playing for an obscure local club, while doing an obscure local job, until a shrewd observer recommended him to Tottenham Hotspur, where he would one way and another remain from 1937 to 1975.

He was by turns an inside-left, centre-half and right-half, and it was in the latter position that he would find fame.

During the war, Nicholson was one of many professional footballers lucky enough to stay at home as a physical training instructor. After it, his career and Spurs' fortunes blossomed when Arthur Rowe became manager in 1949.

Before the war, Rowe had been the team's skipper and centre-half; now he was back as boss, with the bright new policy of push and run. His watchword was: "Make it simple, make it accurate, make it quick," and in consecutive seasons the exhilarating team swept first to the Second Division title, then to the championship itself.

Nicholson was an essential figure, not least for the selfless way he covered for Alf Ramsey, who'd arrived from Southampton at the same time as Rowe. Ramsey's nickname was The General, his influence on the team was huge, but running was not his speciality and he could hardly have enjoyed such success were it not for Nicholson's support.

Nicholson never expected to be given the role of Tottenham manager and he was astonished when he got it. Typically, though, he continued to change in the players' dressing-room, and to live in the same modest club house he had had as a player.

'Nicholson was astonished when he got the job as manager. Typically, he continued to change with the players and live in the same modest club house'

Old glory...past Spurs players pay tribute to Nicholson before a Premiership game against Bolton last month

Relaxed...another day at the office for Nicholson

There was a fascinating and highly productive tension between him and his captain, the ebullient, inventive Danny Blanchflower. Both as right-halves and characters, there could scarcely have been a greater contrast. Blanchflower, eloquent, original, tactically alert, had interests outside the game, including writing columns for an intellectual weekly. Soccer was Nicholson's life. He once admitted that he had wept at the wedding of one of his daughters, realising how little he had ever seen of her.

But despite the men's character differences, they moulded the famous Spurs team that carried off the League and Cup double of 1961, the first time the feat had been achieved in the 20th century.

At Christmas 1961 Nicholson enterprisingly signed Jimmy Greaves from Milan to score goals for him and the Cup was won again the following season.

There was a significant scenario when Spurs met Atletico Madrid in the 1963 European Cup-winners Cup Final in Rotterdam. Nicholson gave a team talk that eulogised almost every member of the Spanish team, while Tottenham heads dropped lower and lower. Blanchflower then gave what might be called an anti-team talk, praising the virtues of his own team. Where Nicholson had lauded Atletico right-winger Jones, Blanchflower responded by saying: "Well, we've our own Jones, Cliffy [the Welsh international winger] and he can motor a bit." Spurs went out and won 5-1.

A final memory, of the splendid job he made of devising England's tactics in the 0-0 draw with Brazil in the 1958 World Cup in Gothenburg when he was coach. Manager Walter Winterbottom wisely assigned him the task. Thanks to Nicholson, Didi, the creator of the Brazilian midfield, was marked out of the game, while England's right-half Eddie Clamp roared down the flank as a wing-back.

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QUIZ

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football for this month's Quiz. The first correct entry selected at random after December 17 will win the ball.

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THIS MONTH'S POSER

Name the famous stadium pictured

OCTOBER QUIZ
Winner: Michael Porter, Colchester, Essex
Answer: Rasunda stadium, Stockholm

FOOTBALL LINGO

#9 Feuille morte

French for dead leaf. A shot struck with backspin so it rises and then drops dramatically. Exponent: Zinedine Zidane

WORLD SOCCER Champions League Competition

Revealed: our first winner

Ian Macintyre from Cambridge is the first monthly winner in our exclusive Champions League competition. His entry, published here, will now go on to the final shortlist, from which we will select the overall winner, who will win a trip to the Champions League Final in Istanbul next May.

- Just to recap, we're offering readers the chance to write for the magazine in an exciting new Champions League competition. One lucky – and talented – reader will also win a trip to the Champions League Final in Istanbul next May.

- All you have to do is write a short article on the Champions League. It could be a match report, a player profile or an interview with a club tealady. The more original, the better.

- Every month, we will publish the best entry in the magazine. Each monthly winner will then join a shortlist from which the overall winner will be selected.

- The winner of the grand prize will travel to the Champions League Final in Istanbul next May as a guest of *World Soccer*, watch the game as part of the *World Soccer* reporting team, and then write a report that will be published in *World Soccer*.

- So get writing! Entries must be no longer than 250 words, and must be on a subject linked to the Champions League.

- The competition will close after the Champions League quarter-finals. Shortlisted entries will be published in *World Soccer* between now and April. The winner of the grand prize will be selected from the shortlist by a panel of *World Soccer* staff.

- Send your entries to:

World Soccer
Champions League competition
24th Floor, King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street,
London SE1 9LS

or via our website:
www.worldsoccer.com

This month's winner:
Ian Macintyre

Important information for captains. Are you planning on being the first to lift this season's Champions League trophy? If so, be sure to be prepared when you are about to lift the trophy. Do you know how heavy it is? Are you aware of its history? How confident are you concerning its dimensions? And, assuming that you are reasonably experienced, do you know how it differs from those trophies you have lifted over the years?

Weighing in at 7.5kg, the Champions League is not only one of the heaviest trophies around, but one of the tallest as well at 62cm. It's taller than the World Cup and European Championship, wider than the *scudetto* and the Premiership, has a smaller base than the UEFA Cup and European Championship and is a conglomerate of several designs proposed when Madrid were awarded outright ownership of the original trophy in 1966.

On the day of the Final make sure that you know roughly what 7.5kg feels like. If you are complacent your lifting may appear sluggish and stilted, but on the other hand if you overestimate its weight the lifting will appear rushed and will lack elegance.

You have all of this information to consider when you step onto the podium with your team jubilantly waiting behind you. Most importantly, decide how to hold the trophy up. Choose a style that best suits you and your team, whether it be a triumphant and bold lifting above your head or a gentle presentation to the side of your body.

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Old pals' act...but Maier has paid the price for taking Kahn's side

Maier sacked

GERMANY

SEPP MAIER, an outstanding keeper for Bayern Munich and West Germany in the 1960s and 1970s and then a specialist coach with Bayern and the national team, could always be relied upon to inject his wacky sense of humour into proceedings. But he was certainly not laughing last month when Germany boss Jurgen Klinsmann sacked him for publicly blasting the pretensions of Arsenal's Jens Lehmann to be the country's first-choice keeper.

Maier and Klinsmann were never on the same wavelength. While the head coach stressed that Oliver Kahn was the man in possession of the keeper's jersey, he had made it a matter of policy to give more playing time to back-ups Lehmann and young Timo Hildebrand of Stuttgart. Maier, however, thought differently, going public with his reservations about rotation.

Matters came to a head during the build-up to Germany's October friendly in Iran. Following Lehmann's confident prediction in *Kicker* magazine that he would be keeper at the 2006 World Cup, Maier thought the time right for a blunt corrective. "Lehmann can go hang," stormed the goalkeeping coach, who has held the post since 1987. "Kahn is the best."

It was the last straw for Klinsmann. He had tried and failed to persuade Maier not to wear his Bayern hat when with the national team, to be more neutral in his dealings with the keepers in the squad. Now he would have to wield the axe. Immediately after Germany's 2-0 win in Tehran, Maier was shown the door and replaced with Euro 96-winning keeper Andy Kopke.

The German media were quick to conclude that the winds of change were blowing in the national team goal. In the space of just two months, Kahn had lost both national team captaincy – to Michael Ballack – and an important ally in Maier, while Lehmann's stock had risen thanks to a fine performance in Iran.

Nevertheless, Klinsmann insists all his keepers have everything to play for, and bearing in mind Lehmann's costly errors in Arsenal's 2-2 Champions League draw away to Panathinaikos, it is a sensible stance. "At the moment, Kahn is the No 1 and Lehmann and Hildebrand are his challengers," says Klinsmann. "I'm looking for hard but fair competition for places and the goalkeeping position is no exception."

Maier was not the only well-known figure in the German game to lose his job recently. Hamburg's poor form this season had coach Klaus Toppmoller inching towards the gangplank week by week and he finally plunged into the River Elbe when a 2-0 home defeat by Arminia Bielefeld sent his team to the bottom of the Bundesliga.

Scant progress

What a difference a year or two makes. In 2002 'Toppi' led Bayer Leverkusen to runners-spot in the Champions League and not long ago he was said to be wanted by Barcelona. But he made scant progress during his 12 months at Hamburg, unable to turn the dressing-room cliques into a united force and bogged down by clashes with senior management. His successor is former Germany midfielder Thomas Doll, responsible for the club's amateurs for the past two and a half years.

Another victim was Monchengladbach boss Holger Fach, whose fate was sealed after the team won just two of their first 10 League games and lost to Bayern Munich's amateurs in the German Cup.

Borussia Dortmund are in no better shape. Under new Dutch coach Bert Van Marwijk, they have leaked goals at an alarming rate and mislaid their normally dominant home form, failing to win any of their first five League games at the Westfalenstadion this season.

Even more worrying are their finances. Losses of £48million in 2003-04 mean they are now in the red to the tune of £85m. So it was no surprise when president Dr Gerd Niebaum called time on his 18-year tenure, a largely golden period in which the club won three Bundesliga titles (1995,1996, 2002) and the Champions League and World Club Cup in 1997.

New president Dr Reinhard Rauball, now in his third spell in the role, has an unenviable task. Just how does he cut the debts without offloading talent? Mission impossible, it seems.

Nick Bidwell

Four musketeers...Essien, Wiltord, Frau and Reveillere celebrate a goal against Fenerbahce in the Champions League

Lyon look to be kings

FRANCE

AT THE END of October, Lyon were the only unbeaten team in the top flight, and having won three consecutive League titles, they are playing the sort of football that could win them further success – and new fans.

Lyon's confidence in the domestic game is apparent since they have been playing crowd-pleasing football while also leading from the front – they were a point clear of Lille after 12 rounds. That is in contrast to recent seasons, when they have had to overhaul the likes of Monaco, Lens, PSG and Marseille to take top spot.

They have also shown much promise on the European front after winning two of their first three Champions League games – away to Sparta Prague (2-1) and Fenerbahce (3-1) – and drawing the other, 2-2 with Manchester United having been 2-0 ahead.

Add in the domestic Supercup win over PSG at the beginning of the season and their unbeaten run in all competitions extended to 16 games – a long way short of Arsenal's achievement in the Premier League but enough to warrant applause.

The Lyon camp see Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten run as the target to emulate. Keeper Gregory Coupet says: "It's an exciting challenge. To do that, we have to learn to compete with the same ferocity when we play in front of 10,000 fans against Istres and at Saint-Etienne for the derby with 45,000."

Another, perhaps more realistic, target is to beat the French League record of 32 games unbeaten, set by Nantes in 1994-95.

Cautious Aulas

Lyon chairman Jean-Michel Aulas, known as the "loudspeaker", has expressed his satisfaction with the team's current run, but also offered a note of caution. He recently told *L'Equipe:* "When I took over 17 years ago we were in the Second Division. I wanted to build gradually on a long-term basis. So I can appreciate our run without thinking about emulating Arsenal. We are a long way from that.

"We have still to be careful. We are now in a position similar to Monaco's last season. And who were champions by the end of it? Lyon!"

Lyon are maturing year by year, but they are not the most popular club in France. Marseille and PSG have won European trophies, Saint-Etienne still command support because of their exploits in the 1970s, when they reached the European Cup Final, and Monaco's incredible run to last season's Champions League Final earned them huge credit. Lyon are desperate now to make an impact on the European stage – and the French public will get behind them if they succeed.

On paper, Lyon are undoubtedly France's strongest team. Organised in a 4-3-3 system, they are a very attacking side, a little like Arsenal. Coupet is France's No 2 keeper, behind Fabien Barthez. In defence the two centre-backs are Brazilians, Cacapa and Cris, though Cacapa badly injured a knee against Strasbourg at the end of October, a major blow to the team.

Anthony Reveillere, Jeremie Berthod and Eric Abidal are all international wing-backs, though in light of Cacapa's injury, Abidal is now likely to play in central defence. In midfield, defensive players like Mahamadou Diarra and Michael Essien are known for their efficiency, while Juninho Pernambucano is the playmaker and a free-kick expert. Up front, Sidney Govou, promising young Brazilian Nilmar, Pierre-Alain Frau, Florent Malouda and Sylvain Wiltord give many options to coach Paul Le Guen, who is keen on rotating his squad.

Lyon have everything in place to be the team of the decade in France. But to achieve that they need to reach at least the last four in Europe. Then they will deserve the title of 'Lyon Kings'.

Erik Bielderman

Van Gaal quits troubled Ajax

Ouch...Wesley Sneijder comes off second best to Bayern's Sebastian Deisler

HOLLAND

AT THE START of the season nearly everyone was predicting that Ajax were going to pick up the domestic silverware and do well in Europe. However, just a couple of months later the club have virtually been eliminated from the Champions League and were 10 points behind leaders PSV in the Dutch championship. On top of that technical director Louis Van Gaal has resigned.

There was already bad blood between the former Holland, Ajax and Barcelona boss and coach Ronald Koeman, stemming from their different opinions on footballing matters. But the bomb burst after Ajax were outplayed by Bayern Munich in a 3-0 Champions League defeat. Koeman complained that 'some people at Ajax' had unrealistic expectations of his young and inexperienced squad. He clearly meant Van Gaal, who had returned to the club only a year ago.

Later that week the board decided to adjust Ajax's ambitions – finishing third in their Champions League group and qualifying for the UEFA Cup was suddenly good enough. But that was something Van Gaal could not accept.

As technical director he had constructed a five-year plan to put Ajax back in the European elite. In his opinion the club would be able to reach the Champions League semi-finals regularly. Koeman didn't find this realistic, however, and had been backed by the board.

Koeman declared Van Gaal's resignation was the best thing for Ajax, but the coach is to blame for the crisis as well. So far none of his signings (Julien Escude, Tom Soetaers and Zdenek Grygera) has blossomed, while another, Victor Sikora, has already left. And almost the same squad that reached the Champions League quarter-finals two years ago has made no significant progress.

Koeman appears to have lost his grip on the team, while the players themselves have been falling out. John Heitinga and Bogdan Lobont had a verbal set-to during the home defeat by Heerenveen, while the two Wesleys, Sneijder and Sonck, also quarrelled.

It was no surprise, then, that PSV were favourites when the two teams met in Eindhoven, and they duly ran out 2-0 victors after an unattractive match. The most noteworthy fact was that both goalkeepers – Lobont and Gomes – picked up bad injuries and had to be replaced.

Den Haag are facing a hefty punishment after hooligans forced their home game against PSV to be abandoned with 10 minutes to play. It was first thought that referee Rene Temmink had called it off because the Den Haag fans refused to stop making offensive chants. In fact, Temmink wanted it to continue after a cooling-off period but mayor Wim Deetman stepped in to order a halt after home supporters had smashed windows of the PSV fans' coaches and were on their way to the club boardroom.

Marco Van Basten's inexperienced national team put in mixed performances in the recent World Cup qualifiers. They were surprisingly held 2-2 in Macedonia but recovered to beat Finland 3-1 at home four days later.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

SWITZERLAND

Grasshopper hit the rocks

Grasshopper, the 2003 League champions, have suffered a catastrophic few weeks, losing four out five League games – a sequence that led to the firing of coach Alain Geiger – and then crashing out of the Cup to Second Division Bellinzona.

The writing was on the wall for Geiger after the Zurich club were hammered 8-1 away by defending champions Basle in mid-September.

Although Grasshopper then managed to draw their next game, 1-1 at home to Aarau, a subsequent run of three defeats by city rivals FC Zurich, Servette and Young Boys, plunged them to third from bottom, with only 12 points from as many games. Youth team coach Carlos Bernegger took over on a temporary basis, but Grasshopper's troubles were far from over.

The club, who have won the national Cup a record 18 times, crashed out of this season's tournament in the fourth round despite having led Bellinzona 2-0 with just two minutes remaining. Nicolas Grossi, a 19-year-old student, scored twice in the dying seconds to take the game into extra-time, which was scoreless. Bellinzona then held their nerve to win the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

Servette, beaten 4-2 by Second Division Sion, were the only other top-flight side to exit the Cup at the fourth round stage.

Tranquillo Barnetta, voted Swiss newcomer of the year, will be sidelined for several months with a knee injury caused by a tackle from behind during the World Cup qualifier in Israel. The game finished 2-2, putting Switzerland three points behind the Republic of Ireland and France with a game in hand.

Ivar von Rulach

AUSTRIA

Honours even at the top

Viennese sides Rapid and FK Austria remained locked in top spot in the League after drawing 1-1 in the recent derby.

Ivica Vastic put Austria, the visitors, ahead just after half-time, but the lead was cancelled eight minutes later by Markus Katzer. Rapid's goal also brought to an end Joey Didulica's 750-minute unbeaten run in the Austria goal.

Harry Miltner

LIECHTENSTEIN

Away win comes at last

Liechtenstein's 4-0 victory in Luxembourg in October was their first away win and also their first in a World Cup qualifying match. The victory came just four days after their impressive 2-2 draw at home to Euro 2004 finalists Portugal, also in the qualifiers for Germany 2006.

Liechtenstein's only previous competitive win was when beating Azerbaijan 2-1 in a Euro 2000 tie in October 1998. No fewer than eight players from that side were in the starting line-up in Luxembourg.

At club level, Vaduz continued their good start to the season in the Swiss Second Division, beating Winterthur 1-0 to make it eight wins from their first 10 games. Keeper Carlos Silva has conceded only five goals in helping the team to second place.

Graeme Crawford

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Robbie the record-breaker

Robbie Keane broke Niall Quinn's Irish international scoring record when he hit both goals in the 2-0 World Cup qualifying win over the Faroe Islands at Lansdowne Road on October 13.

The Tottenham striker, who equalled Quinn's 21 goals against Cyprus in September, went out on his own with a penalty then took his tally to 23 after being set up by man-of-the-match Roy Keane.

The victory kept the Republic top of Group 4 on goal difference from France, who they held to a 0-0 draw at Saint-Denis four days earlier.

Longford Town retained the FAI Cup, won for the first time last year, when beating Waterford United 2-1 in the Final. The victory confirmed their new status as Cup specialists, having also won the League Cup for the first time earlier this season.

Sean Creedon

PORTUGAL

Victor on losing streak

Victor Fernandez's honeymoon is over at Porto, with the European champions trailing Benfica in the domestic championship, out of the Cup after a fourth round defeat by Vitoria Guimaraes and on the ropes in the Champions League. The Spanish manager has to turn the ship around fast if he wants to keep his job. For a club that did nothing but win for two seasons under Jose Mourinho, the prospect of not winning a trophy this term is hard to take.

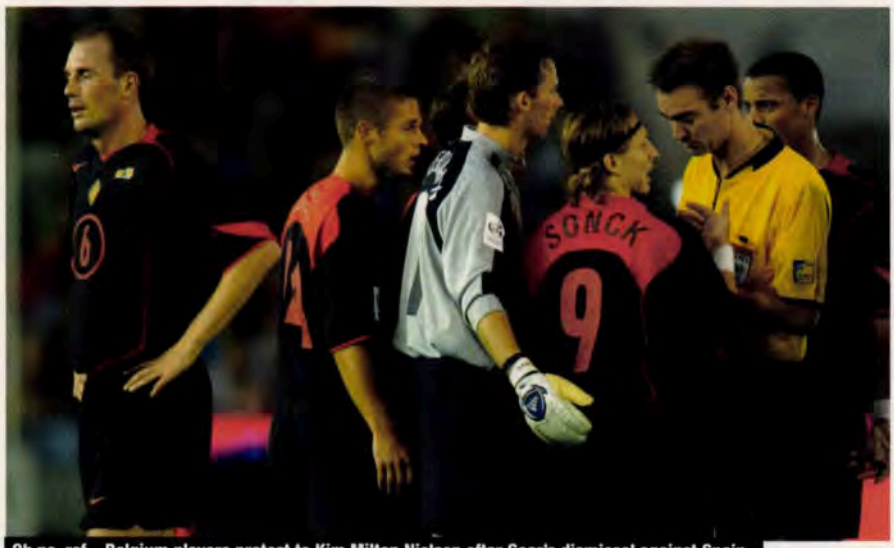
Porto's struggles present Benfica with a golden chance to end their 11-year title drought, the longest in club history. The Eagles are playing pragmatic football but are showing a consistency deemed indispensable by coach Giovanni Trapattoni, the former Italy boss.

Sporting Lisbon recovered from a dismal start, winning three games in a row to ease the pressure on coach Jose Peseiro. They lay just behind promoted Vitoria Setubal, whose series of impressive victories took them to third place at the start of November.

Pedro Pinto

I'm No 1...Keane salutes his record goal

Red Devils accept red cards



Oh no, ref...Belgium players protest to Kim Milton Nielsen after Goor's dismissal against Spain

BELGIUM

THE FEDERATION HAS admitted both players sent off in the World Cup qualifying defeat by Spain were at fault, having initially expressed its anger over what it saw as anti-Belgian decisions by Danish referee Kim Milton Nielsen. The change of attitude came after Eric Deflandre admitted to swearing at the referee and Bart Goor confessed to spitting at Xavi during the 2-0 defeat in Santander last month.

Milton Nielsen went into the Spain game with a tarnished reputation among the Belgians having handed out two of their three most recent red cards. He also showed inconsistency just before the kick-off, insisting Goor took off his wedding ring but allowing Raul to keep his on.

Deflandre was dismissed again two weeks later for a foul on Germinal Beerschot's Mario Cvitanovic when playing for Standard Liege. Standard were beaten 1-0, their first away defeat of the season.

Club Brugge extended their unbeaten League run to 26 games when beating La Louviere 2-0 at home in this season's 10th round. That kept Brugge two points clear of defending champions Anderlecht, who beat Genk 4-2 at home after Aruna Dindane scored twice in the last two minutes.

The League's first casualty among coaches was Sergio Brio at Mons, who had won only one of their first 10 games. He had been undermined by the farcical 'chocogate' scandal of a few weeks earlier when he banned defender Olivier Suray for a game for eating a chocolate sandwich hours before a match. The coach's reputation had already been tarnished by his infamous lap of honour late last season after learning that Mons had avoided relegation despite having just lost 9-0 at home to Club Brugge. Jos Daerden, the former Genk, Lierse and Standard coach, has taken over.

In the Third Division, Lyra and Bornem set a record for a high-scoring draw with a spectacular 7-7. Lyra had squandered a 5-1 interval lead and a 7-4 advantage with 76 minutes gone.

Nicholas Harling

Rosenborg master the suspense

Top marksman...Frode Johnsen's 19 goals helped Rosenborg to another title

NORWAY

ALFRED HITCHCOCK couldn't have conjured up a more dramatic end to the League season. The two title contenders, Rosenborg and Valerenga, went into their final game level on points and goal difference. They both won and by the same three-goal margin but Rosenborg took their 13th consecutive title having scored more goals over the season.

Rosenborg had stumbled badly in the run-in, losing four of their five matches before the last round to allow Valerenga to pull level.

The drama continued throughout the final day, with the potential destination of the title changing with every goal scored. Valerenga were champions in waiting at half-time since they were 1-0 up at home to Stabaek through Kjetil Waehler and Rosenborg were scoreless against Lyn in Trondheim. However, goals from Daniel Braaten and Frode Johnsen early in the second half put the defending champions back in the driving seat. Lyn pulled a goal back, but Johnsen restored the two-goal lead.

Valerenga, meanwhile, were struggling to add further goals against Stabaek, who had to win to avoid relegation. But with the visitors forced to go forward in search of the equaliser, Valerenga scored twice in a minute to go 3-0 up. This put the Oslo side back on track to take their first championship since 1984, but in the 89th minute Johnsen struck again with a firm header to secure a 4-1 win and top spot.

Fireworks lit up the Trondheim evening sky in celebration, but the triumph was a poignant one for coach Ola By Rise, who two weeks before was told the club were not keeping him on after the end of the season. The former assistant, who took over from Age Hareide ahead of the season, steered Rosenborg to the Champions League, but a home defeat by PSV Eindhoven and the struggles to retain the domestic title prompted the club to take action.

Johnsen's hat-trick made him League top scorer with 19 goals, while Brann just pipped Tromso for third place.

Stabaek joined Sogndal in the automatic relegation places, with Start and Aalesund winning promotion.

Sigurd Odegaard

DENMARK

Viborg 'mice' start to roar

Brondby remained in control of the Superliga through the autumn, but the 'grey mice' of Viborg have been scuttling just behind them.

After 13 rounds Viborg were Brondby's closest challengers, six points behind, heady heights for the unsung club from the small town in Jutland whose only trophy was the Danish Cup four seasons ago.

"We'll never be big spenders," said goalkeeper Jesper Christiansen, "but we have big characters in the team, and we're up there on merit."

Jim Holden

ICELAND

Keflavik cruise to Cup

Keflavik eased to a 3-0 win over relegated KA in the national Cup Final, completing the competition without conceding a goal. But the fans voted with their feet and the game was watched by only 2,049, the smallest crowd in Cup Final history.

Willum Thor Thorsson was the first victim of a coaching cull after last year's champions KR finished only sixth. Thorsson's replacement is former KR favourite Magnus Gylfason, who led IBV to runners-up spot.

Thorsson was soon back in employment, though, taking over at KR's arch-rivals Valur. He replaced Njall Eidsson, who was dispensed with despite having led Valur to the First Division title, their third return to the top flight in five years. Completing the chain was the arrival at IBV of former FH youth coach Gudlaugur Baldursson.

Elsewhere, Grindavik secured the services of Milan Stefan Jankovic, who somewhat surprisingly left Keflavik for a post as assistant coach at his new club.

Rab Christie

ESTONIA

Easy does it for Levadia

Levadia Tallinn won their third League title with a game to spare after beating Tulevik Viljandi 4-1 away. That kept them six points clear of second-placed Tallinna VMK, whose 10-1 thrashing of Lootus proved to be in vain.

The title win was the first for coach Tarmo Ruutli, a former national team, Tulevik and Flora Tallinn boss.

Former national Under-21 coach Jelle Goes has taken charge of the Estonian senior side until the end of the year, while former national team

assistant Janno Kivisild has taken the reins at Flora. Both posts were previously held by Dutchman Arno Pijpers, who departed early after being told that his contracts would not be renewed in November.

Andres Must

SCOTLAND

Vogts exits citing abuse

Berti Vogts stood down as national coach after two and a half years following the team's dismal start to the World Cup qualifying campaign and a string of disappointing performances in friendlies.

The German had been under fire for some time because of Scotland's poor showing, but said the main reason for his departure was the personal abuse he had suffered. "It has degenerated into a physical nature, especially on recent occasions, where I have been spat upon," said Vogts. "This is not acceptable behaviour in a civilised society."

His final game in charge was a 1-1 World Cup qualifying draw away to Moldova in October. Four days before, Scotland lost 1-0 at home to Norway, their first World Cup defeat at Hampden Park since 1965. They had begun the campaign with a 0-0 home draw against Slovenia. This year's friendly results have included a 3-0 home defeat by Hungary and a 4-0 thrashing in Wales.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Hughes leaves on a low

Mark Hughes ended his four-year term as national manager with a 2-0 defeat away to England and a more drastic 3-2 home loss to Poland in World Cup qualifiers.

Wales are virtually out of contention for a finals place with more than half their games to play.

Captain Gary Speed announced his retirement from international football after the Poland match. The 35-year-old made 85 appearances, including a record 44 as skipper, scoring seven goals.

In the League, leaders Total Network Solutions extended their unbeaten run to nine games and ended Porthmadog's when winning 2-1 away in late October.

Mel Thomas

NORTHERN IRELAND

Linfield lose at last

Linfield's run of 33 League matches unbeaten came to an end five games into the new campaign when they lost 1-0 at home to Ballymena United.

Gary Hamilton scored six goals as Portadown took advantage to go top with a 9-0 home humiliation of bottom-of-the-table Omagh Town.

Glentoran midfielder Scott Young is out for the season after breaking a leg during training.

Roy Kitson

Trying to impress...Eremenko takes on Holland's Denny Landzaat

Antti at odds with on-form Alexei

FINLAND

ALEXEI EREMENKO JNR has made a great start to the World Cup qualifying campaign, hitting five goals in as many games, three of them from free-kicks.

But the youngster, who has also made a promising start to his career at Italian side Lecce, is still not doing everything right as far as national coach Antti Muurinen is concerned. Muurinen took Eremenko off during the recent 3-1 defeat by Holland, surprisingly replacing him with a defender. "I thought Alexei looked tired," said the coach, to Eremenko's chagrin.

IFK Mariehamn a Swedish-speaking club from the island of Aland, reached the First Division for the first time after defeating FC Jazz in a play-off.

Pentti Hietanen

Malmo win battle of nerves

Feeling champion...Malmo coach Tom Prahl hoists the League trophy

SWEDEN

MALMO WON ONE of the most thrilling championship races in years to end their 16-year wait for a title. In a nail-biting run-in, they first put IFK Gothenburg out of contention by beating them 2-1 away. However, they still had to win their final game, at home to Elfsborg, while hoping Halmstads, ahead on goal difference, failed to beat Gothenburg at home.

Malmo did win, 1-0, Jon-Inge Hoiland scoring the goal, but Halmstads led 1-0 in their game at half-time. However, Gothenburg scored from the penalty spot in the second half to force the draw and hand the title to Malmo.

It was coach Tom Prahl's third championship triumph, having previously won it with Halmstads in 1997 and 2000, and he has been rewarded with a one-year contract extension. Halmstads coach Jan Andersson also emerged with credit, having taken the club so close in his first season in charge and on limited resources. Bosse Johansson, who did a commendable job in steadying the rocky boat at third-placed Gothenburg, will hand over to ex-Norwegian international Arne Erlandsen.

AIK Stockholm and Trelleborgs filled the automatic relegation slots, with Hacken and Gefle winning promotion.

Pentti Hietanen

I don't believe it...Daum has watched Fenerbahce lose the plot

Daum vents Fener fury

TURKEY

THE HONEYMOON IS OVER for Christoph Daum. For months, Fenerbahce's German coach could do no wrong after turning the chaotic outfit from laggers into last season's champions. This season, too, the Istanbul club had established an early lead, taking advantage of disarray at city rivals Galatasaray and Besiktas. But the players' form has dropped, in-fighting has escalated and team performances have looked scrappier by the match.

Daum's fury with his players increased after the team lost their first League game of the season, 2-1 away to Vicente Del Bosque's beleaguered Besiktas, a result that allowed Galatasaray to draw level with Fener at the top.

"Alex shows himself in the unimportant games but in the big matches he is nowhere," the German said of his young Brazilian star afterwards. Alex complained that he was being made a scapegoat and that everyone else was playing just as badly. Daum has also claimed that some players have been "spying" on him for the club management, who in turn have criticised his public outbursts.

The general unease at the club was exemplified at the next training session after the Besiktas defeat when there was a shouting match between players. Daum was not there, however, as he took time out to plot a way to rescue Fener's Champions League campaign.

The 3-1 home defeat by Lyon had left them with just three points from as many games, and Fener's poor showing in Europe has already taken the scalp of long-serving international defender Fatih Akyel. His contract was terminated soon after his bad performance in the 6-2 drubbing at Manchester United, having only just ended a long spell on the bench.

Suna Erdem

CROATIA

Baric called in at troubled Dinamo

Former national coach Otto Baric has been appointed sports director of Dinamo Zagreb in the hope that he can help solve the club's problems.

A recent 2-1 home defeat by Slaven Belupo left them mired in mid-table, eight points behind leaders Inter Zapresic, and prompted a group of disaffected fans to break into the training ground during a training session.

The supporters ripped the shirts from the players' backs and proceeded to run off with them, shouting "you'll get them back when you deserve to wear them".

Dinamo chief Zdravko Mamic resigned, but changed his mind after president Mirko Barisic explained that he would not be able to hand back the £2million Mamic has invested in the club.

Zdravko Reic

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Blank in Belgrade

The 123rd derby between League leaders Partizan Belgrade and third-placed Red Star ended 0-0 and was one of their poorest meetings in recent years. There was pace and combativeness from both sides, but the game lacked class.

The most pleasant surprise of the League campaign so far has been the showing of Zeta Golubovci, a small club from the outskirts of Montenegro's capital, Podgorica. Zeta, who last season only narrowly avoided relegation, were second in the table after 10 rounds, four points behind Partizan and two ahead of Red Star. The team, comprising little-known players in the main, are coached by 36-year-old former Partizan player Dejan Vukicevic.

The national team went to the top of their World Cup qualifying group after drawing 0-0 away to Bosnia-Herzegovina and beating San Marino 5-0 at home in October.

Vladimir Novak

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Blaz upbeat

National coach Blaz Sliskovic was in positive mood following his side's 0-0 World Cup qualifying draw with neighbours Serbia & Montenegro in Sarajevo. "We are still in the game," said Sliskovic. "Our dreams of qualifying for the finals can still be fulfilled."

Bosnia also drew their opening game in the group, against favourites Spain in Zenica.

The intention had been to play Serbia & Montenegro in Zenica as well, but that venue is currently off-limits after Spain's Juan Carlos Valeron was hit by an object thrown from the crowd.

Instead, the game was staged in the Bosnian capital, at the Kosevo stadium, the scene of mass burials during the four-year siege of Sarajevo by Serbian forces between 1992 and 1996.

Despite the extra tensions the choice of stadium raised among the two sets of supporters, the game passed off without serious incident.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Inconsistency rules

Slovenia's shock 1-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Italy revived hopes that the team can reach their second successive finals. But spirits were dampened four days later when Branko Oblak's side crashed 3-0 away to Norway to slip back to third place in Group 5.

Bostjan Cesar, 22, became a national hero after scoring the winner against the Italians in Celje. Meanwhile, the coach has continued to overlook veteran stalwarts Zlatko Zahovic, Miran Pavlin and keeper Marko Simeunovic.

Zdravko Reic

ISRAEL

Haifa already on title track

Champions Maccabi Haifa put themselves on track to retain the title after going five points clear following a string of free-flowing performances in their first seven games.

There have already been two coaching casualties, with Eli Guttman (Hapoel Be'er Sheva) and Gil Landau (Hapoel Tel Aviv) departing within a few days of each other in October. Guttman, who has taken charge of Cypriot side ENP, has been replaced by former Maccabi Haifa, Beitar Jerusalem, Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Petach Tikva boss Eli Cohen.

The national team kept their World Cup qualification challenge on track after a 2-2 home draw with Switzerland. That left them three points behind the Republic of Ireland and France with a game in hand.

Ori Lewis

CYPRUS

APOEL get taste for Ricard

Ex-Middlesbrough forward Hamilton Ricard has become the latest player with English connections to sign for a Cypriot club. The Colombian has agreed to join APOEL on an 18-month contract. The champions recently also recruited Chris Bart-Williams, the former England Under-21 midfielder, and Italian ex-Sheffield Wednesday striker Michele Di Piedi.

On the field, international midfielder Constandinos Makrides scored a spectacular 65-yard goal to seal APOEL's 3-1 victory over traditional title rivals Omonia.

The game also featured the bizarre self-sending-off of APOEL player Milan Stojanoski. The Macedonian, booked early on in the game, then walked off the pitch having mistakenly thought he had been booked again, after conceding a penalty by fouling Stathis Aloneftis. In fact, the yellow card had been shown to Dimitris Daskalakis of APOEL, for arguing with the referee over the penalty decision.

Soulis Theodosiou

MALTA

Haber saves the day

Young Birkirkara keeper Justin Haber was the star when keeping a clean sheet on his international debut in the home draw with Iceland in the World Cup qualifiers.

The 0-0 scoreline was a marked improvement on Malta's previous outing, when they were thrashed 7-0 at home by Sweden. But things were back to normal against Bulgaria in the second October qualifier. Michael Mifsud put Malta ahead but they eventually lost 4-1.

Champions Sliema Wanderers extended their lead at the top of the League to seven points over Birkirkara after a 2-0 win over Floriana.

Domenico Aquilina

Ouch...Macedonia fall to Andorra

Andorra defeat brings shame

MACEDONIA

NATIONAL COACH Dragi Kanatlarovski offered his resignation after Macedonia's shameful 1-0 World Cup qualifying defeat in Andorra.

Although the FA told the coach to continue, there is no doubting the humiliation caused by the loss. It was Andorra's first victory in a competitive game and put into stark relief Macedonia's achievement of only four days before when they held Holland, among the favourites to win Group 1, to a 2-2 draw in Skopje.

"When the team win, the glory goes to the players and the coaches. When we lose, the guilt is only for the coach," said Kanatlarovski after the game in Andorra La Vella.

Vlatko Kostov has resigned as coach of top division Bregalnica after doubts were raised about his ability to meet the demands of the ambitious club. "Our goal is to finish in the top two places, and Kostov couldn't guarantee that," said president Vance Dimov. Bregalnica were fifth after 10 rounds, 11 points behind leaders Rabotnicki. Former assistant Mijalce Madzunarov has now been installed as coach.

Michel Stojmanovski

Clubless Tsiartas salvages point

Greek hero...Vassilis Tsiartas

GREECE

INTERNATIONAL MIDFIELDER Vassilis Tsiartas has been without a club since leaving AEK Athens in the summer and has been training with Third Division Thrasivolos to keep in shape.

But the 32-year-old's lack of top-level football did not prevent his selection for the squad for the recent World Cup qualifier away to Ukraine, and Tsiartas repaid coach Otto Rehhagel by scoring Greece's stunning equaliser in the 1-1 draw. Tsiartas rifled a 35-yard free-kick into the top left corner with just nine minutes remaining, having come on as a substitute in the 70th minute.

Ukraine had taken the lead through Andrii Shevchenko just after half-time, when keeper Antonis Nikopolidis allowed the ball to slip through his legs.

"I counted a lot on a player who does not play for a team by putting him in at the right time, and Tsiartas once again paid us back with that incredible goal," said Rehhagel. "I'm sure others in my position would not have put him in."

Despite Tsiartas' heroics, the Greeks are still without a win since their Euro 2004 triumph in July and must beat Kazakhstan in their next World Cup qualifier, at home on November 17, to put their chances of reaching Germany back on track.

Lou Economopoulos

Yartsev told 'lose and you're out'

RUSSIA

Up and down...Maniche and Deco celebrate Portugal's third goal but it's only misery for Ignashevich and Smertin

NATIONAL COACH Georgi Yartsev has been told he will be fired if Russia lose their next World Cup qualifier, at home to Estonia in Krasnodar on November 17. Russian Football Union president Vyacheslav Koloskov issued the ultimatum in the wake of the 7-1 drubbing by Group 3 leaders Portugal last month, which left Russia fourth in the table, six points off the pace.

There is a widely-held belief that the job is too difficult for an international coaching rookie such as 56-year-old Yartsev, despite him performing a miracle a year ago when, after replacing Valeri Gazzayev at the helm of the sinking Russian team, he turned around their fortunes and guided them to the Euro 2004 finals.

However, Russia were the first side to bow out of the tournament, having lost their first two group games, against Spain and hosts Portugal. Even a victory over eventual champions Greece in the last group match did not silence Russian fans, who demanded Yartsev's resignation. Instead, the former Moscow Spartak striker stayed on, only to go through further humiliation.

Russia began the World Cup campaign with a dreary 1-1 draw at home to Slovakia but it was the stunning loss to the Portuguese that brought renewed calls for Yartsev to go. Instead, he said he wanted his players to share the responsibility for the shameful performance in Lisbon, and even accused the squad of attempting to get rid of him.

Koloskov described Yartsev's comments as an "emotional breakdown" and criticised him for prematurely leaving the bench after Portugal scored their sixth goal. He also advised Yartsev to work more closely with club coaches and suggested he adopt a playing model more like that of top League clubs Lokomotiv Moscow or Zenit St Petersburg. Strangely, Yartsev has overlooked some of those teams' best players in favour of his personal favourites, who have not lived up to the mark.

Victor Gusev

CZECH REPUBLIC

Champions Banik chuck out coach

Banik Ostrava have sacked coach Frantisek Komnacky less than six months after he guided the team to the League title. A 4-0 home defeat by Slovan Liberec was the final straw for the board, who had already seen the club fall eight points behind leaders Sparta Prague after a run of indifferent performances in their first eight League games.

Disappointing results in Europe also damaged Komnacky's cause. After failing to reach the group phase of the Champions League, Banik fell at the first hurdle in the UEFA Cup, losing to Middlesbrough.

The new man in charge is Jozef Jarabinsky, who previously coached Banik in the 2001-02 season. But he made a bad start, with his team going down 2-0 at home to Sparta.

The result completed an impressive week for the Prague club, who beat city rivals Slavia 2-0 the previous weekend then held Manchester United to a 0-0 draw at home in the Champions League. They were still unbeaten in the League after 10 rounds and lay four points clear of closest challengers Sigma Olomouc.

Jan Koller scored three goals in the October World Cup qualifying victories over Romania (1-0) and Armenia (3-0) to go second in the all-time Czech scoring list. His tally of 32 puts him one ahead of Zdenek Nehoda and two behind Antonin Puc.

Tomas Galasek has taken over the national team captaincy following the retirement of Pavel Nedved.

Sam Beckwith

SLOVAKIA

Barmos goes with Inter rock bottom

Jozef Barmos's long-expected dismissal as Inter Bratislava coach finally came after the eighth round of matches, during which the team had picked up only one point.

However, the fortunes of the 2000 and 2001 champions have barely improved under new boss Karol Brezik, formerly assistant to Barmos. Although Inter finally won a League game, 2-1 away to Banska Bystrica in mid-October, they were still bottom after 12 rounds with just five points.

Slovakia continued their superb start to the World Cup qualifiers with a 4-1 home win over Latvia. They now share top spot with Portugal in Group 3.

Pavol Stracansky

ROMANIA

National express

National Bucharest, the poorest club in the top division and the one with fewest supporters, have had a fairytale start to the season, storming to the top of the League and demolishing their Cup opponents.

A 6-0 thrashing of Poli Iasi kept them three points clear of city big brothers Steaua after 11 League matches, with other Bucharest rivals Dinamo and Rapid further back. In the Cup, National beat Second Division Caracal 4-0 and then top-flight Bacau 5-1 to reach the quarter-finals.

Petronela Gore, a female assistant referee, was badly beaten up and spat upon by three Vointa Motca players during a Fourth Division game after they accused her of not 'seeing' an offside decision that allowed visitors Noua Generatie to take the lead with 10 minutes to play. Gore, who required hospital treatment, has vowed to sue the players.

Radu Timofte

POLAND

Recalls pay off

Two long-time international absentees got among the goals following their recall for the two October World Cup qualifiers.

Radoslaw Kaluzny, only a reserve at Bayer Leverkusen and an unexpected inclusion after an 18-month absence, opened the scoring away to Austria in the 10th minute. Substitute Tomasz Frankowski, making his first appearance for four years, grabbed Poland's final goal of the 3-1 win in the last minute.

Frankowski scored again four days later in Cardiff, once more after coming off the bench, to pull Poland level after Wales had taken the lead. The visitors eventually ran out 3-2 winners, with their other goals coming from Maciej Zurawski and Jacek Krzynowek, who had scored Poland's second in Vienna.

However, Frankowski then angered national coach Pawel Janas after bemoaning the fact he had only been used as a substitute.

"It irritated me a lot," said the Wisla Krakow striker, who was League top scorer with 13 goals after nine rounds. "I do not want to be only a 'joker' any longer. I think my goals saved the coach's job."

Janas replied: "He does not need to play for Poland if he does not want."

Legia Warsaw have named former assistant Krzysztof Gawara and experienced defender Jacek Zielinski as joint caretaker coaches following the dismissal of Dariusz Kubicki. He received his marching orders following Legia's 4-1 aggregate defeat by Austria Wien in the UEFA Cup first round. Former Czech Republic boss Jozef Chovanec had been lined up to take over from Kubicki but had to pull out after his wife objected to the move.

Dariusz Kurowski

BULGARIA

Levski put check on CSKA

Levski Sofia came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 away to CSKA and end their city rivals' 100 per cent record since the start of the season. CSKA had won their first eight matches, scoring 30 goals, to set a blistering pace to the new campaign.

Stoiko Sakaliev gave CSKA an early lead, with Hristo Yanev putting them further ahead just before half-time. However, Levski were back on level terms by the hour mark, through Dimitar Telkiyski and Daniel Borimirov.

The draw meant Levski, who are also still unbeaten, kept the gap on the leaders down to two points.

Michael Bowesfield

KAZAKHSTAN

Kaisar expelled after walkout

Kaisar have been expelled from the League after the players walked off en masse during a game against Yesil Bogatyr. They were protesting against their board, who owed them three months' wages. Struggling Kaisar's three remaining League games were to be awarded 3-0 to their opponents.

Vladimir Kalinkovich

New deal...Diogo Rincon

Surprise blow for Shakhtar

UKRAINE

SHAKHTAR DONETSK PAID a heavy price for their impressive 3-0 home win over Celtic in the Champions League when losing in the domestic League for the first time this season four days later. Their surprise conquerors were promoted Metalist Kharkiv, who triumphed 1-0 in Donetsk to end Shakhtar's winning run of nine games since the start of the season and 16 in all.

"I'm very disappointed," said the club's Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu. "The players lacked motivation after beating Celtic. For me, football is a spectacle, but against Metalist it was a circus."

Champions Kyiv Dynamo took advantage of Shakhtar's slip by beating lowly Borysfen 2-0 to narrow the gap on their rivals to two points. Dynamo have handed Brazilian forward Diogo Rincon a new contract to 2010, and a new five-year deal to Serbia defender Goran Gavrancic.

Argentinian striker Roberto Nanni has been loaned to Spanish side Almeria after failing to make an impact at Dynamo. The 23-year-old arrived in Kyiv last year for a club record fee of £2.5million.

Oleg Zadernovsky

Ferencvaros fight racism

HUNGARY

FERENCVAROS HAVE LAUNCHED a campaign to rid themselves of the infamous racist element among their fans after being fined £27,500 because of chanting and missile throwing during the home UEFA Cup tie against English Cup finalists Millwall. The Hungarian champions were due to stage an anti-racist demonstration at their first home UEFA Cup group game, against Feyenoord in early November.

Ferencvaros won through to the group stage after beating Millwall 3-1 on aggregate. They also lead the way in the domestic League after a 1-1 draw at fiercest rivals Ujpest and a 5-0 win over provincial side Papa. 'Fradi's' cause was helped by Ujpest's 2-1 defeat of second-placed Debrecen.

Peterjon Cresswell

In the spotlight...Ferencvaros fans have come under fire

Watching brief...Romario sat out Fluminense's best run of the season to date

BRAZIL

Romario fights on after dose of Flu

THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, Romario has been able to get away with his outspoken comments, his whimsical approach to training and a 'me-me-me' attitude thanks to his ability to score goals.

His personality has certainly landed him in trouble on several occasions but a few balls in the back of the net have invariably got him out of the soup. Now, however, the goals have dried up and Romario has simply become a nuisance.

His ignominious exit from Fluminense has left a nasty stain on his career, and intensified the calls for him to call it a day before he makes an even bigger clown of himself.

Yet he insists on coming back for more. Less than 24 hours after effectively being fired by Fluminense, Romario, known as 'Shortie', was over at Rio de Janeiro neighbours Vasco da Gama negotiating a swansong for next year when he will be 39.

The story of the former international's downfall goes back to August when Alexandre Gama, who is two years his junior, became Fluminense' fourth manager this year. Romario, who had been struggling for fitness up to that point, suggested he sit out a few matches until he was back in shape. Gama agreed, not wanting to suffer the same fate as predecessors Ricardo Gomes and Valdir Espinosa, who left the club after failing to bring Romario into line.

Fluminense promptly embarked on their best run of the championship, four successive wins pulling them away from the relegation zone and even fuelling talk about qualifying for next year's Libertadores Cup.

By the time Romario had declared himself fully fit again, it was patently clear that 'Flu' were better off without him. Bringing him back would have meant rearranging the team around him so that he could stand in the penalty area, wait for the ball to come to him and score his goals. So instead Gama decided to stick with his winning formula and, although Romario initially made polite noises about accepting the coach's decision, it seemed only a matter of time before the showdown. This finally came in the home match against Goias.

Romario lost his patience and launched a typically vitriolic attack on Gama. "He's just got on the bus, he's still standing up and he's already trying to grab the window seat," said the forward, using a rather curious metaphor.

But his outburst merely strengthened Gama's resolve to stick by his team. Cue the almost inevitable intervention by club president David Fischel, who on the eve of the Goias match "asked" for Romario to be fielded. The coach reluctantly obliged, but Romario, the victim of what appeared to be a boycott by his team-mates, barely got a pass and was substituted on the hour to chants of: "Get lost, Romario, Fluminense don't need you." And Fluminense lost 4-1.

Next day, Fischel changed his tune, saying: "If I have to choose between Gama and Romario, I'll back the coach." Gama, meanwhile, joined in the bus talk. "I've got enough personality to sit in the driving seat," he said.

Romario had been at the club for just over two years during which he scored a few goals, nipped out to Qatar for three months to bag £670,000 from Al Sadd, for whom he played three games and failed to score, and made lots of headlines because of the privileges he received from the Rio club. These included the right not to train on the day after matches and to travel alone to away games, skipping the traditional pre-match 'concentration' and often arriving just a couple of hours before kick-off. He was also allowed to skip training for special occasions, which included a friend's wedding and a week-long trip to Poland to sort out a legal dispute.

Pretentious

A couple of weeks before being kicked out of Flu, Romario decided to declare himself Brazil's most important player since the 1970 World Cup. "This will probably cause another controversy and I'll probably get a good hiding for saying it, but, yes I consider myself [to be the best]," he crowed. The comment didn't go down too well with Ronaldo, whose eight goals in the 2002 World Cup finals alone outstrip Romario's total of five in 1994. "I think it's very pretentious for a player to call himself the best," retorted the Phenomenon. "I don't have this habit."

Zico, another candidate who Romario overlooked in favour of himself, also chipped in. "Ronaldo is 1,000 times, 2,000 times more important," he said.

The Goias defeat effectively put paid to Fluminense's Libertadores aspirations as they dropped to 10th. Vanderlei Luxemburgo's Santos were top after 38 of the 46 rounds, ahead of former leaders Atletico Paranaense on games won and four points clear of Sao Paulo, Sao Caetano and Palmeiras.

Santos' march to the top had been temporarily halted after losing to Sao Paulo 1-0. Curiously, Santos had knocked Sao Paulo out of the Sudamericana Cup the week before despite saving their best players for the League match. This provided plenty of ammunition for those who feel Luxemburgo is often too clever for his own good. And having won the Sudamericana tie, Santos got exactly what their coach had dreaded most – a quarter-final meeting with Ecuador's Liga de Quito involving a six-hour flight and a match at high altitude.

Dance master...Emerson Leao

While there is little love lost between Sao Paulo boss Emerson Leao and Luxemburgo, the former clearly has a soft spot for Santos, whom he led to the 2002 title and the runners-up spot last year. "Everyone wants to dance with the most beautiful woman at the party," said Leao. "Today, we danced with her and then we took her home."

Brian Homewood

Brazil show both sides of the coin

Winning feeling...Venezuela celebrate victory over Ecuador

BRAZIL CONTINUED TO lead the South American World Cup table after the two October rounds of matches, lying a point ahead of Argentina and three clear of Paraguay, with the other seven countries separated by just three points.

The defending champions are also still unbeaten after 10 of the 18 games, a stark contrast to the 2002 qualifiers when they lost in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia and Ecuador. Their two recent games produced a rather flattering 5-2 win in Venezuela – with Kaka and Ronaldo scoring twice – followed by a goalless draw at home to Colombia. The first match showed the perils of taking the game to Brazil, the second demonstrated that they can be frustrated by a team that defends well and keeps possession intelligently.

Venezuela, earnestly believing they could gain their first win over Brazil, created several good openings in the first half in Maracaibo, but found themselves 4-0 down after 51 minutes as Brazil ruthlessly put their chances away. "Venezuela don't have the decisiveness we have in attack and that's the difference, that's why we deserved to win," said Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

But there was a different mood in the camp after Brazil were held 0-0 in Maceio's King Pele stadium four days later. "[The Colombians] just came and put 10 men behind the ball and defended the whole time. This should be banned from football," said Roberto Carlos.

Parreira was less extreme though still critical, saying: "When one team doesn't want to play, you don't have a game. For anyone who has seen some of the fine moments of Colombian football, it's sad to see a team without any intention of attacking."

The Venezuelans recovered from their defeat by Brazil, beating Ecuador 3-1 at home in San Cristobal to get back in the hunt for what would be their first World Cup finals ticket. The win put them into joint fourth place, and it is the top four that qualify automatically, while the fifth-placed side enter a play-off against the top Oceania side for a berth in Germany.

Venezuela were the only winners in the 10th round of games, as the other four matches were drawn. Argentina disappointed when being held 0-0 away to Chile having enjoyed a fine 4-2 win over Uruguay in Buenos Aires four days earlier in what was the first game in charge for coach Jose Pekerman. Goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri was the hero in Santiago with a string of fine saves that kept the Chileans at bay.

It was a more than respectable result for the home side and saved coach Jorge Olmos from almost certain dismissal following the 2-0 defeat away to Ecuador four days earlier.

Paraguay hung on to third place after two 1-1 draws – away to Colombia and home to Peru – but both performances were poor.

In the other round 10 match, Bolivia drew 0-0 at home to Uruguay to add to their 1-0 victory over Peru four days earlier, also in La Paz. The latter match almost did not go ahead after the Bolivian squad initially refused to play unless their players' union was officially recognised. In the face of the boycott, state president Carlos Mesa signed a decree that the players' demand would be met.

Ruiz on the spot

Looking ahead to this month's round of qualifiers, there was worrying news for Ecuador when it was revealed Oscar Ruiz would referee their home game against Brazil. The Colombian has taken charge of two Brazil matches since the start of June, awarding the world champions four penalties. He gave them three, all for fouls on Ronaldo, who also converted them all, in the World Cup qualifier against Argentina in Belo Horizonte; the other came during their Copa America quarter-final against Mexico in July.

Argentina claimed that one of the penalties given against them was fair, another was doubtful and the third was ridiculous. The one awarded against Mexico followed a blatant dive by Adriano and must be a candidate for the most farcical penalty given in a major game anywhere in the world this year.

Ruiz has been regarded as one of South America's top officials for several years, and there was nothing to suggest that the penalty he awarded against Mexico was anything other than a bad mistake.

On the other hand, he has already refereed two other Brazil games in the qualifiers – the 1-1 draw in Peru and 0-0 draw in Paraguay – so why tempt fate by putting him in charge of another Brazil match so soon afterwards?

Brian Homewood & Eric Weil

ARGENTINA

Big Two pay price for sales

WITH SEVEN GAMES to go in the opening championship, Boca Juniors were only fourth, five points behind joint leaders Newell's Old Boys and Velez Sarsfield, with River Plate a point further back in sixth after a poor run of League results. The Big Two's recent travails suggest they are finally paying the price for selling too many of their best players during the close season.

Boca Juniors sold Nicolas Burdisso, Lucas Pereyra and Clemente Rodriguez – virtually their entire first-choice defence – and although they are still not conceding many goals, they are not so adept at building play from the back and tend to make more panicky clearances.

Hard graft...Martin Palermo has had to do much of his own foraging for Boca recently

This has had a knock-on effect further up the field. Much was expected from the return of striker Martin Palermo, for instance, and though he was joint top League scorer with six goals from 12 games, he would surely have scored many more had he not had to drop so deep to collect the ball.

Meanwhile, young striker Carlos Tevez recently had to request a week's rest after playing 57 games in the calendar year up to mid-October. This included appearances for the Under-20, Olympic and senior national teams as well as for Boca.

River Plate, who lost three consecutive League games during October, are clearly suffering after selling their backbone of defender Horacio Ameli, midfielders Daniel Montenegro and Claudio Husain, and striker Fernando Cavenaghi before the championship started.

Even when the team were topping the table earlier in the opening campaign, coach Leonardo Astrada admitted that they were not playing well and were not the best side.

The Big Two's recent downturn in form may serve to convince them to sell fewer key players in future. However, negotiations are already under way for Tevez to leave Boca in June, with Atletico Madrid near the head of the queue to sign him, while River's Javier Mascherano is apparently wanted by Real Madrid.

One bright spot for River is that they have just successfully fought off an attempt by Barcelona to sign 12-year-old junior player Erik Lamela. The Spanish club had reportedly offered the player £6,500 a month and a job for his father in Barcelona to entice him to join up. River countered with an offer of free education for Erik and his two brothers at the club's school, an undisclosed sum of money and a percentage of a future transfer fee.

Barcelona's eager pursuit of the youngster came after scouts saw him finish as top scorer in a youth tournament in Galicia.

Newell's Old Boys' fine showing in the opening championship has been based on their sound and unchanging defence. The back line of Luciano Vella, Julian Maidana, Sebastian Dominguez and German Re had conceded only five goals in their first 12 matches, the fewest in the League.

Newell's have also been boosted by the agreement reached with Fenerbahce to release former Argentina midfielder Ariel Ortega to play for them. No details of any financial arrangements were given. Ortega walked out on the Turkish club two years ago and had been banned from playing since then.

Newell's co-leaders, Velez Sarsfield, are also a solid team and have a lot of variation in attack. Yet even with the likes of Rolando Zarate, Cristian Badaro, Santiago Bianchi and Lucas Valdemarin they had scored only 14 goals, the same as Newell's, in the first dozen games.

Racing Club's decision to dismiss coach Ubaldo Fillol, the former international keeper, has had little effect on the club's fortunes. They have continued to lose, albeit narrowly, and took only one point from their last nine games having won their first three of the tournament.

Eric Weil

CONCACAF WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Guatemala make surprise progress

We're through...Guatemala celebrate victory over Honduras

GUATEMALA, WHO HAVE never qualified for a World Cup, upset the form book by reaching the six-team final stage of CONCACAF's marathon qualifying competition for Germany 2006. A 1-0 home win over Honduras guaranteed them a top-two finish in second stage Group 2 with a game to spare and left their opponents battling Costa Rica for the other qualifying spot.

Honduras host Costa Rica on November 17 and need to win to finish above them on the head-to-head rule.

Veteran Honduran coach Ramon Maradiaga, who appeared for his country the only time they have qualified for the World Cup, in 1982, is the man credited with Guatemala's success. Known as 'The Primitive' because of his scarred face, Maradiaga has lost only twice since taking charge in March.

Honduras warmed up for the Costa Rica showdown in typical style by firing coach Raul Martinez and recalling veteran Jose de la Paz Herrera for a third stint at the helm. Martinez was in charge for only six games after replacing much-travelled Bora Milutinovic. The Serb had walked out after getting fed up with talk about how much he was earning.

The USA also qualified with a match to spare from Group 1. The other three teams in the group – Jamaica, Panama and El Salvador – are all in contention for the second qualifying berth.

Group 3 was a stroll for Mexico against the Caribbean islanders of Trinidad & Tobago, St Kitts & Nevis and St Vincent & The Grenadines.

Brian Homewood

America blues

MEXICO

POPULAR MEXICO CITY side America were sitting rock bottom of opening championship Group 1 after 12 of the 19 games, having failed to win any of their first six matches under new coach Mario Carrillo. The ex-assistant had replaced Argentinian Oscar Ruggeri, with ex-national coach Manuel Lapuente being brought in as technical director.

Carrillo was instrumental in America's 2002 summer championship triumph, their only title win of the past 15 years.

Cruz Azul have also discovered that a change of coach does not necessarily change fortunes. They were still looking for their first win since replacing Luis Fernando Tena with reserve team boss Jose Luis Saldivar and had only eight points after 12 games. That was eight fewer than Guadalajara, the second bottom club in Group 2.

Carlos Ramirez

Winless streak...Cruz Azul (white) take on Toluca

ROUND-UP

CHILE

● Universidad de Chile had three points deducted, causing them to lose top place in the closing championship to arch-rivals Universidad Catolica, for not paying players' salaries on time. Deportes Temuco and six second division clubs suffered the same punishment for their non-compliance.

COLOMBIA

● The government's narcotics department has become the majority shareholder of top division club Union Magdalena after taking over the 25 per cent stake in the club owned by convicted drug dealer Eduardo Davila. The department is already majority shareholder of Millonarios, after a similar share requisition from a former drug dealer. Millonarios, now under Montenegrin coach Dragan Miranovic, recently went six games without defeat but were still bottom of the closing championship after 15 rounds. America led by five points from Deportes Tolima. The country's new sensation is 19-year-old Hugo Rodallega, who has scored nine goals for Deportivo Quindio in his first season as a professional.

URUGUAY

● Nacional won the opening championship after beating Montevideo Wanderers 3-1 on the final day. In the previous round they had come from behind to beat Penarol 2-1 in the big Montevideo derby. League top scorer Alexander Medina was Nacional's hero, scoring both goals to take his tally to 23.

PARAGUAY

● Olimpia supporters hurled plastic bottles at their own team after a 2-1 home defeat by Sportivo Luqueno left them 10 points behind leaders Libertad in the closing championship.

PERU

● Universitario players have refused to train in protest at the sacking of Argentinian coach Marcelo Trobbiani. No reason was given for his dismissal, which came with the team unbeaten and in second place in the closing championship, two points behind Sporting Cristal.

VENEZUELA

● Juan Garcia, a 34-year-old striker with Mineros de Guayana, has become the first player to score 200 goals in the domestic League. Defending champions Caracas took over at the top of the opening championship after beating early pacesetters Trujillanos 1-0 at home in the 11th round of matches.

Eric Weil

Deaths highlight disorganisation

Making the point...Nigeria celebrate Yakubu Aiyegbeni's goal,

AT LEAST SEVEN people died at three African World Cup qualifiers in October, re-emphasising how far behind the rest of the world the continent remains in terms of its ability to organise high-profile matches.

Four people were crushed to death in Togo after the floodlights were switched off at the end of the qualifier against Mali. Two fans were killed in Liberia in the aftermath of the home side's defeat by Senegal. And at least one person died in Guinea in a stadium crush before the game against Morocco.

It was difficult to establish the true extent of the carnage from the latter incident after the Guinean federation denied that anything untoward had happened at all. FIFA appeared happy to go along with this line, showing indecent haste to amplify it to the rest of the world without making an independent investigation.

Since then, it has been established one woman died and there were multiple injuries in a surge by queuing fans after an entrance gate was opened hours before the kick-off time.

The deaths have cast a shadow over the African qualifying section, which has now reached the halfway stage.

Dilapidated stadiums, poor ticket selling structures and unrealistic expectations, whipped up by a biased media, are among the contributing factors to the poor crowd safety record. And it will not improve unless the authorities show a willingness to act.

Over the past decade, more than 200 people have died at football matches in Africa, yet there remains no clear policy nor willingness on the part of African football's leaders to tackle the issue. The Confederation of African Football promised to investigate the recent deaths, but then said it was deferring to FIFA on the matter. The world body has sent sympathies but done little else.

The trouble in Liberia was prompted by Senegal's 3-0 victory. The home fans went on the rampage, necessitating United Nations peacekeeping troops to step in to restore order.

Elsewhere in Group 1, Togo and Zambia also won (1-0 at home to Mali, and 3-2 away to Congo respectively) to make it a three-way tie at the top. Collins Mbesuma hit all Zambia's goals in Brazzaville, while Henri Camara hit two of Senegal's in Monrovia.

A Benni McCarthy penalty in Uganda brought South Africa their first away win in Group 2 and put them top of the table after former leaders Ghana were held 0-0 at home by the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ivory Coast lead Group 3 by two points from Libya after Aruna Dindane scored the only goal of the game in Benin, where there were also outbreaks of violence. Libya's 2-1 home victory over Egypt led to the sacking of visiting coach Marco Tardelli. In the group's other game, Joseph-Desire Job scored four minutes into injury-time to salvage a 1-1 draw for Cameroon in Sudan.

Unbeaten Angola are the surprise leaders in Group 4 after beating Zimbabwe 1-0 at home, thanks to a Flavio header, while previous leaders Nigeria were held to a 1-1 draw in Gabon.

Okocha hot favourite for top award

Nations Cup star...Okocha

NIGERIA'S Jay-Jay Okocha is the runaway favourite to win the African Footballer of the Year award, which this time is to be decided by a poll of the continent's 52 national coaches where previously it was the members of the Confederation of African Football's media and technical committees that had the say.

Okocha is in line to receive the prize after his fine performances at the African Nations Cup finals. He was far and away the best player in Tunisia, even though Nigeria did not reach the Final, and he also caught the eye with his performances for Bolton Wanderers in England.

However, there is a danger Okocha's candidature could be overshadowed by the hype surrounding Didier Drogba.

This summer the Ivorian striker became the most expensive African footballer of all time when joining Chelsea from Marseille (coincidentally, the previous record was Okocha's move to Paris Saint-Germain from Fenerbahce in Turkey).

Also, Drogba's goals have propelled Ivory Coast to the top of their World Cup qualifying group, and he reached the UEFA Cup Final in May, though Marseille lost to Valencia.

But Okocha's performances on the biggest African stage surely make him deserving of the award.

CAF gave no reason for the change in the way the award is to be decided, although there have been calls for national coaches to have a say for some time. There was also controversy over the way the confederation handled the announcement of last year's result. There was little doubt that Samuel Eto'o of Cameroon was a deserved winner, but the full results of the ballot were never published by CAF. It was the first time that had not happened for more than 30 years, and there were allegations it was all a botched job by a revamped PR department, which had little idea of what it was doing.

For this year's award, CAF will announce a list of five 'finalists' by the end of the year, though the identity of the winner will be kept secret until the awards ceremony itself, in Johannesburg in February.

Other players who might make it on to the shortlist are Eto'o, Drogba's international strike partner Aruna Dindane, another Ivorian, Arsenal defender Kolo Toure, and Toure's clubmate Lauren of Cameroon.

Mark Gleeson

which salvaged a draw away to Gabon

Guinea retained the lead in Group 5 after drawing 1-1 at home in Conakry to closest challengers Morocco.

Guinea play again on November 17 against Kenya in a rearranged game, and Morocco host the Kenyans in February, but there is now a rest until late March for the remainder of the African qualifying section.

Mark Gleeson

Holders hang on

HOLDERS ENYIMBA MADE it through to the semi-finals of this year's Champions League despite losing at home – for the first time in African club competition – in their penultimate group game.

The 1-0 defeat by Ivory Coast's Africa Sports put pressure on the Nigerian side, but a 1-1 draw away to Bakili Bullets of Malawi in the final round gave them the runners-up berth in Group A, behind Etoile Sahel of Tunisia.

Africa Sports finished a point behind Enyimba, a 3-2 win over Etoile on the final day not enough to see them through.

Senegal's Jeanne d'Arc reached the semi-finals for the first time in 30 years after taking the runners-up berth in Group B. They came from behind to beat already qualified Esperance of Tunisia 2-1 in the final game, and would have progressed even if they had lost since third-placed USM Alger lost 2-0 to South Africa's SuperSport United.

Esperance and Etoile Sahel both qualified with a game to spare, and as group winners avoided each other in the semi-final line-up, keeping alive the prospect of an all-Tunisian Final.

Mark Gleeson

ROUND-UP

WEST AFRICA

LIBERIA coach Kadalah Kromah resigned after a mob ransacked his home in the wake of the 3-0 World Cup defeat by Senegal.

NIGER are the latest African country to be suspended by FIFA for political interference in their football association.

Diaraf Dakar made sure of taking the SENEGALESE championship in convincing style, with a 6-1 win over Guediawaye FC in their last game. They finished three points clear of closest challengers AS Douanes. Linguere, ASFA, AS Police and Khombole were relegated.

BENIN have been confirmed as hosts for the African youth championship in January, with matches to be played at two venues in Cotonou.

Djoliba won the championship in MALI, finishing six points ahead of Stade Malien.

Surprise League champions Dolphin FC completed the Double in NIGERIA with a 1-0 win over Enugu Rangers in the FA Cup Final. Julius Berger striker Kabiru Alausa, the League's top scorer, has joined United Arab Emirates side Al Ahli. Nigeria won the African women's championship with a crushing 5-0 victory over Cameroon in the Final in Johannesburg.

Off to the Emirates...Kabiru Alausa (in green) has joined Al Ahli

CENTRAL AFRICA

In DR CONGO, former national coach Louis Watunda has taken charge of Lubumbashi club side FC St Eloi Lupopo.

EAST AFRICA

KENYA'S national coach Jacob Mulee resigned after his side lost 2-1 away to Botswana in the World Cup qualifiers. Ulinzi Stars won the championship, beating Tusker FC 4-3 on penalties in the Final after a 2-2 draw.

Simba SC retained the championship in TANZANIA, with Mtibwa Sugar finishing runners-up.

League champions AS Port Louis 2000 beat Savanne SC 1-0 to win the MAURITIUS Super Cup.

NORTH AFRICA

EGYPTIAN club Al Ahli have been ordered by FIFA to pay £19,000 owed to Portuguese coach Toni, who was fired last year.

Former international Amin Zaki has taken over as SUDAN'S national team coach.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Bruce Grobbelaar lasted just six games in charge of SOUTH AFRICA'S Manning Rangers, with the team having won just once and slipped back into the relegation zone where they spent most of last season. Grobbelaar's replacement is former Orlando Pirates forward Ian Palmer. Former Nigerian national coach Clemens Westerhof has also lost his job, fired by Umtata Bush Bucks after failing to win in five matches in charge.

ZAMBIAN League champions Zanaco also won the League Cup, beating Red Arrows 2-0 in the Final in Lusaka.

Mark Gleeson

Al Ittihad in vanguard of Saudi revival

AFTER SAUDI ARABIA'S disastrous showing at the 2002 World Cup and ignominious group stage exit from this year's Asian Cup, the country's football finally has something to shout about again – Al Ittihad have progressed to the Asian Champions League Final and the national team made it a procession into the final stage of World Cup qualifying.

Before their recent travails, the Saudis had dominated the Asian game for decades, winning the Asian Cup three times, reaching the Final on two other occasions and qualifying for three consecutive World Cup finals. Meanwhile, their club sides had won the continental competitions on numerous occasions.

Now after the failures the good times appear to be on the way back. Nasser Al-Johar, who oversaw the debacle in Korea/Japan, was reinstated as national coach following the dismissal of Dutchman Gerard Van der Lem after the Asian Cup disaster. And the reappointment paid off, as Saudi won all five of their World Cup qualifiers to date to easily reach the final pools for a place at Germany 2006.

Al Ittihad are also in line for glory after victory over Chonbuk Motors, South Korea's FA Cup winners, in Asia's premier club competition. The Jeddah-based team, coached by veteran Croat Tomislav Ivic, downed Chonbuk in dramatic fashion, coming back from two goals down in the second leg to draw 2-2 – with defender Osama Al-Harbi scoring two minutes from time – to record a 4-3 aggregate win.

"We had to give a tight performance in the first half, especially against a good team with good foreign players," said Ivic. "We were not so defensive, though, with both Mohamed Noor and Mario [Carevic] up front.

"Now we can look forward to going for the title but we have to respect our opponents as well."

Those opponents are another South Korean side, Songnam Ilhwa, who beat Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor 2-0 on aggregate to reach the Final. It was the second season in a row the Tashkent club have lost out in the semis, and this time defeat came despite holding Songnam to a 0-0 draw in the first leg in Korea. Goals from Kim Do-hoon and Brazilian Dudu handed Cha Kyung-bok's team a superb away win in the return to keep them on course for the Asian title.

Songnam have been continental champions once before, in 1995. No doubt they will be fully focused on claiming the crown again after a disappointing season in their attempt to retain the Korean League title they have won for each of the past three seasons.

The Final will be played over two legs, with the games scheduled for November 24 and December 1.

The Final of the first edition of the AFC Cup will be an all-Syrian affair after Al Jaish and Al Wahda defeated Singaporean duo Home United and Geylang United respectively in the semi-finals. The competition is contested by clubs from nations deemed to be in Asia's second tier.

Michael Church

We're on our way...Al Ittihad players celebrate a goal against Chonbuk in the semi-final

Eyes front...Desailly nips ahead of Al Shamal's Jose Falkano in the Qatari League

Desailly makes a tasty start on the gravy train

QATAR

FORMER FRANCE CAPTAIN Marcel Desailly has become the latest big name to move to Qatar, where he has joined League leaders Al Gharafa. The ex-Chelsea defender made an almost immediate impact, scoring a late equaliser in his second game to secure his side's place at the summit in a 2-2 draw with Al Arabi. Desailly turned down moves to a number of top European clubs to join Al Gharafa, formerly known as Al Ittihad, who are coached by compatriot Bruno Metsu.

Another to jump on the Qatari gravy train is Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson, who signed for Al Rayyan and kicked off spectacularly by scoring all of his new club's goals in the 5-2 victory over Al Arabi.

Anderson joins Dutchman Frank De Boer at Al Rayyan, and it was the former Barcelona and Ajax man who scored twice against reigning champions Al Sadd to give his club a share of the lead after seven games.

Michael Church

ASIAN ROUND-UP

In IRAN, former national team boss Mohammed Mayelikohan has been named as head coach of club side Paykan. Mayelikohan, who was most recently in charge of Iran's Olympic team, replaces Homayoun Shahrokhi. Saipa led the way in the League after seven rounds, though only on goal difference from Foolad.

Al Nassr led defending champions Al Shabab by a point at the top of the SAUDI ARABIAN League after 10 rounds.

In SOUTH KOREA, former Asian club champions Suwon Bluewings continued their resurgence with a 1-0 win over Daegu that kept them two points clear of FC Seoul in the Second Stage.

SINGAPORE and MALAYSIA will host the second ASEAN Football Federation Club Championship, from July 19 to August 13 next year. Club champions from eight South-east Asian nations will contest the trophy.

Tanjong Pagar have become the fifth club to pull out of SINGAPORE'S S-League in three seasons. They took the decision after finishing bottom in the recently completed campaign.

Finance and Revenue of MYANMAR beat defending champions Mohun Bagan of INDIA 5-3 on penalties to lift the 110th IFA Challenge Shield title. Meanwhile, Kerala won India's Santosh Trophy with a 3-2 win over Punjab in the Final. Captain Sylvester Ignatius scored the winner in extra-time.

Nebitchi Balkanabad defeated Asudalik Ashgabat 1-0 to capture their second consecutive TURKMENISTAN Cup title.

In MALAYSIA, Brazilian Toni Netto guided Perak to a 3-0 extra-time victory over Terengganu in the FA Cup Final. Argentinian Luciano Goux and Khalid Jamlus (two) were on the scoresheet.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

Reds hot favourites

JAPAN

A MAJOR UPSET is on the cards in the J. League's Second Stage, with none of the top four after 10 of the 15 rounds having won a stage title before. Urawa Reds are hot favourites to win having opened up a five-point lead over Gamba Osaka and JEF United Ichihara, with Albirex Niigata a further three points back.

Reds beat Gamba 2-1 at home and JEF 4-0 away in successive weeks, before drawing 0-0 at home with First Stage champions Yokohama F Marinos in front of a crowd of 58,334 and then defeating struggling former powerhouses Kashima Antlers 3-2 away.

"Our players now have a winning mentality," says Reds manager Guido Buchwald. "They know what gets results. But a five-point lead can disappear in no time if we lose our composure."

There were ugly scenes at the end of the Antlers-Reds game after the home team were jeered off by their own fans. Midfielder Yasuto Honda was nearly hit by a drinks can, which he then threw back into the crowd. This prompted a pitch invasion, which led to Honda being roughed up in one of the goalmouths. Police detained 32 people over the fracas. "I regret it," said Honda afterwards, "but the fans were wrong." Manager Toninho Cerezo also faced a barrage of insults as he left the ground.

Jubilo Iwata, struggling former champions like Antlers, are set to appoint Olympic team manager Masakuni Yamamoto to replace caretaker Masakazu Suzuki. Yamamoto, a former national team defender, was also assistant to Japan boss Philippe Troussier at the 2002 World Cup.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

Taking off...Harry Kewell tumbles spectacularly after being tripped by Solomon Islands' George Suri in the Nations Cup Final

Solomons sunk by Aussies' early goals

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA made light work of the SOLOMON ISLANDS in the Oceania Nations Cup Final, running out 11-1 aggregate winners having hit four goals in the opening 45 minutes of the first leg in Honiara to effectively put the outcome beyond doubt.

Josip Skoko (two), Ante Milicic and Brett Emerton all scored before half-time in the Solomons' capital, and while veteran midfielder Batram Suri pulled one goal back on the hour, Ahmad Elrich restored Australia's four-goal advantage late on.

Harry Kewell, making a rare hometown appearance, was among the scorers in the return game in Sydney. Milicic, Tony Vidmar, Archie Thompson, Elrich and Emerton notched the others in the 6-0 romp.

The two countries meet again over two legs next year to decide who goes forward to meet one of the South American sides for a place at the 2006 World Cup. Few expect the result to be much different.

Ba won FIJI'S Inter Districts Championship the hard way after being taken to extra-time and then penalties in the semi-final and Final, which were both played on the same day. The League champions beat a dogged Labasa 5-4 on spot-kicks to earn their Final berth, so were no doubt relieved that Rewa missed all three of their penalties in the shoot-out of the Championship decider.

Sobou won PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S National Club Championship for the fourth successive time by beating neighbours West Lae 2-0 in the Final. The underdogs gave as good as they got until midway through the second half, when, tiring visibly, they let in Joe John and Harrison Kameta.

Waitakere United won their opening three games in NEW ZEALAND'S revamped national League, with former South Africa striker Kerryn Jordan hitting five goals.

Paul Moon

Psychological warfare

Managers are the real stars of the Premiership, says Howard Johnson

THE LAST TIME a top-flight footballer said something genuinely, jaw-droppingly interesting you could still stand on the terraces to watch them with a Bovril in your hand.

The advent of 24/7 media interest in football and the ever-increasing attentions of the tabloid front pages have now put paid to any player ever giving us more than a main course of platitudes together with a side portion of empty slogans.

That's the bad news. The good news, though, is that it doesn't really matter if there's not one footballer out there prepared to get his mouth dirty and tell us a few home truths any more. Why? Because all of a sudden Premiership managers have decided it's time to do battle off the pitch while their players do so on it.

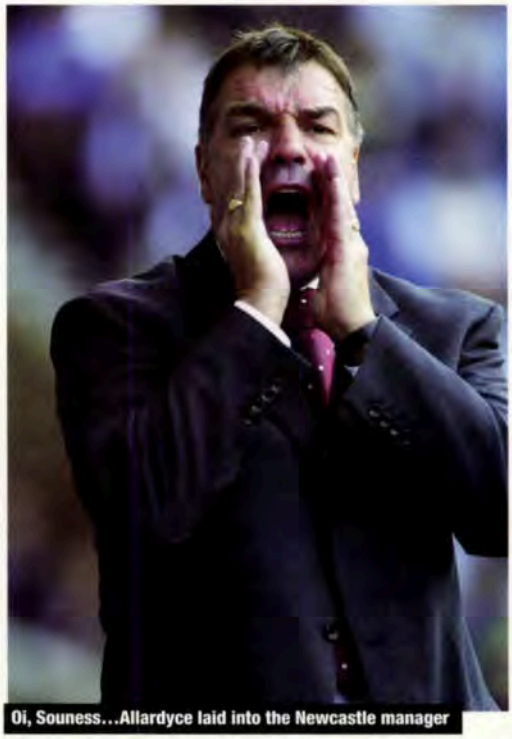
With no stone being left unturned in the search for the tiniest advantage to deliver those oh-so-important wins, managers have decided that waging psychological warfare on their opponents via the media is the modus operandi.

Some people might find this undignified. Absolutely fantastic is what I say. Whereas at one time managers seemed to be part of an even worse Boys Club than the players ('Joe Bloggs is an excellent manager. I'm sure he'll turn things round. I'll be having a pint with him tonight'), now the gloves are well and truly off. Dishing out verbal stick left, right and centre is as near as dammit obligatory, and the most entertainment in football right now is being delivered after the final whistle.

Every Saturday night I'm sitting in front of the telly slack-jawed with astonishment as Premiership managers start laying into their opponent of the day (team, manager, ref, programme seller) with the kind of relish previously only displayed in the ring by boxers with evil on their minds. It's absolutely gripping stuff.

The psychological effect of two grown managers verbally brawling like two babies after the same bottle of milk was first seen back in 1996. The then Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan lost his rag with Alex Ferguson after the Manchester United boss accused opponents of simply not trying against the Geordies. Keegan's subsequent "I would love it, love it..." tirade after a hard-fought win at Leeds was widely seen as an unwitting acknowledgement that Fergie was getting to him. As Newcastle fell away and United took the title, many said that the United boss's use of psychology had tipped the balance in his favour.

It is only this season, however, that psychological managerial warfare has suddenly become all-pervasive and all-consuming. Much of the credit for this must go to that good-looking, arrogant and opinionated Mr Mourinho. He has really upped the ante. From the minute he arrived at Stamford Bridge from Porto the Chelsea boss started challenging the status quo. "We have top players and, sorry if I'm arrogant, we have a top manager," he blurted in his first press conference. "It's difficult to get on with my ego...but the players are going to have to live with it."


Oi, Souness...Allardyce laid into the Newcastle manager

'I have no mental problem with Van Nistelrooy'

Arsene Wenger refutes Alex Ferguson's accusation

No stopping Mourinho

And Mourinho hasn't stopped since. A personal favourite? Slaughtering Spurs' negative tactics after a 0-0 draw with: "This is a difficult League with everyone losing games. Maybe even Tottenham will lose a game defending with 11 players."

Not to be outdone, those perennial sparring partners Arsene Wenger and Ferguson have scaled dizzy new heights in on-the-record slanging matches. After the now-traditional Battle of Old

IT'S ALL GONE WRONG FOR...

ADRIAN MUTU

He came to Chelsea little more than a year ago as Claudio Ranieri's Great White Hope. But after Adrian Mutu scored in his first three games for the club his life and career went into freefall. A marriage break-up, an unseemly scandal involving a porn star, a police car chase and subsequent driving ban; it was all exceedingly bad news. Had the Romanian continued to bang them in at Stamford Bridge he probably could have ridden out all of that personal turbulence. He may have even kept his job after the recent admission that he had taken cocaine. But since he was no use to Chelsea on the pitch and a clear liability off it, there was simply no way back.

Liability...Mutu

Quality goals...Van Persie

Trafford between their two sides, there was much sport to be had as the managers let fly.

"Riley decided the game, like we know he can do at Old Trafford," seethed Wenger, blaming the ref for Arsenal's 2-0 defeat. "We were robbed. We got the usual penalty awarded against us whenever we come to Manchester United and they're in difficulty."

Ferguson was quick to retaliate, saying: "If you're brought down in the penalty box, it's a penalty kick – I think."

And as if that wasn't enough, Ferguson then went on to accuse Wenger of having psychological issues over his constant berating of United striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy. "The guy has obviously got a mental problem with Ruud Van Nistelrooy, for some reason," he said. "It's always Ruud Van Nistelrooy."

"I can reassure you that I have no mental problem with Van Nistelrooy," retorted a straight-faced Wenger.

On and on it goes. Keegan has been back in the fray at his old club, Newcastle, when his current Manchester City side had just lost 4-3. "Steve Dunn is definitely off my Christmas card list," Keegan spat. "He had a nightmare. I'd like the referee to have a look at his performance and write me a letter, but I'm not holding my breath."

Great stuff. But if Toon manager Graeme Souness thought he'd escaped a fellow manager's verbal assault, he only had to wait another week. Bolton boss Sam Allardyce, a keen student of the tactical theatrical outburst, laid into Souness after the Scot had suggested Bolton's long-ball game was a pain in the neck following a 2-1 defeat at the Reebok.

Sam speaks out

"Graeme is knackered because little old Bolton have beaten Newcastle," said Allardyce. "He shouldn't comment on my team. He should look at his own team's performance." Ooh, get you Sam.

Let's face it, never in the field of sporting conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. The managers' outbursts, spats, pettinesses and conflicts are making this year's Premiership campaign the most exciting for years. Who needs football? Roll those post-match interview cameras!

Shaking with anger...Keegan greets Newcastle coach Dean Saunders while fuming over referee Dunn's showing

IT'S ALL GONE RIGHT FOR...

ROBIN VAN PERSIE

His arrival in Arsenal from Feyenoord in the summer didn't excite anything like the reaction that his fellow Dutchman Arjen Robben stirred up when he pitched up across London at Chelsea from PSV Eindhoven. But within the space of a week Robin Van Persie suddenly became the name on everybody's lips. The 21-year-old striker made a starting appearance against Manchester City in the League Cup, in what was possibly the most unfamiliar Arsenal first team ever to take to the field. But a high-quality goal in that game and another in the last minute to salvage a home League draw against Southampton a few days later had the critics purring. And they proved yet again that Arsene Wenger sure can pick 'em!

MEDIA WATCH

Hand gestures...Wenger and Ferguson

Battle of Old Trafford

"Yes, Manchester United against Arsenal erupted into its customary exchange of fisticuffs, and on the *Match Of The Day 2* sofa, Gordon Strachan and Alan Hansen were drooling. 'The most exciting match of the season,' was Hansen's verdict. And that was despite the fact there was no footage available of the most intriguing action, the post-match prize fight in the Old Trafford tunnel. Strachan was perplexed as to how an Arsenal player had found himself in possession of soup with which to aim a knockout spillage in the direction of Sir Alex Ferguson's lapels. Soup, he said, was never served in his days wearing the United red."

The Daily Telegraph's *Jim White gets straight to the heart of the matter.*

"As aggressively as United performed, the clubs' disciplinary records would suggest that Arsenal, who have had 54 players sent off in eight years under Wenger, were beaten at their own game."

The Times' *Oliver Kay claims that you can't argue with statistics. Can you?*

"When it comes to self-interest, scoring a point, assuaging a defeat or defending the indefensible, neither Wenger nor Ferguson could care less about the prestige and the dignity of the game they profess to love."

James Lawton takes the moral high ground in The Independent.

"Manchester United-Arsenal games are becoming a threat to public order, and the clubs should be told as much by the police. Football's usual sanction in the wake of trouble at stadiums is to exclude supporters, but now the game is moving into an age when the authorities might need to consider banning the teams instead."

The Daily Telegraph's *Paul Hayward has a point. Imagine the relief you'll see in the eyes of motorway service station staff when a coach pulls in and they realise it's only football supporters!*

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VAGNER LOVE

Brazilian forward quick to make CSKA Moscow fans swoon

CSKA MOSCOW FANS were quick to fall for the charms of their team's new Brazilian front man, Vagner Souza de Silva, aka Vagner Love, a £6million summer signing from Sao Paulo club Palmeiras.

The 20-year-old is already a cult hero at the old army club having scored seven goals in his first 11 games for the Muscovites, including two in the 3-2 aggregate victory over Rangers in the third qualifying round of the Champions League.

Usually, South Americans need some time to adjust to the different style of play in Europe. Not Vagner Love. His mobility, flair, awareness and powerful shooting have posed a constant menace; off the field, the culture shock of trading the bustle of Sao Paulo for the more austere surroundings of Moscow has been softened by having his entire family brought over to be around him: mother Jaira, father Neto, sister Irma and brother-in-law Marcelo.

"I've started well for CSKA and that's been so good for my confidence; on the field I feel like a matador," says Vagner Love, who won his first cap for Brazil in a Copa America tie against Costa Rica last July. "Playing for CSKA is my big chance. I have my first taste of European football and have the opportunity to test myself against the best in the Champions League.

"I know only a few words of Russian. I communicate with most of my team-mates with gestures, but it's working out."

Vagner also claims that football rather than partying is his priority now. In Brazil he had a well-founded reputation for being something of a Don Juan and owes his nickname to his womanising ways. He was thrown out of the Palmeiras youth team squad after being caught with a girl in his room on the eve of an important game two years ago, only to be reinstated after team-mates pleaded for him to be given a second chance.

Kiss-and-tell tales of his antics that night had the press gleefully dubbing the youngster "Vagner Love" or the "Marksman of Love", and the romantic liaisons continued with regularity. But in no way did they impede his footballing progress. Vagner was soon a fixture in the Palmeiras first team and finished the 2003 season as the Second Division's top scorer with 19 goals. That tally helped the club regain their place in the top flight and earned Vagner a place in Brazil's Under-20 side. His move to CSKA came after some outstanding performances for Palmeiras at the start of this year.

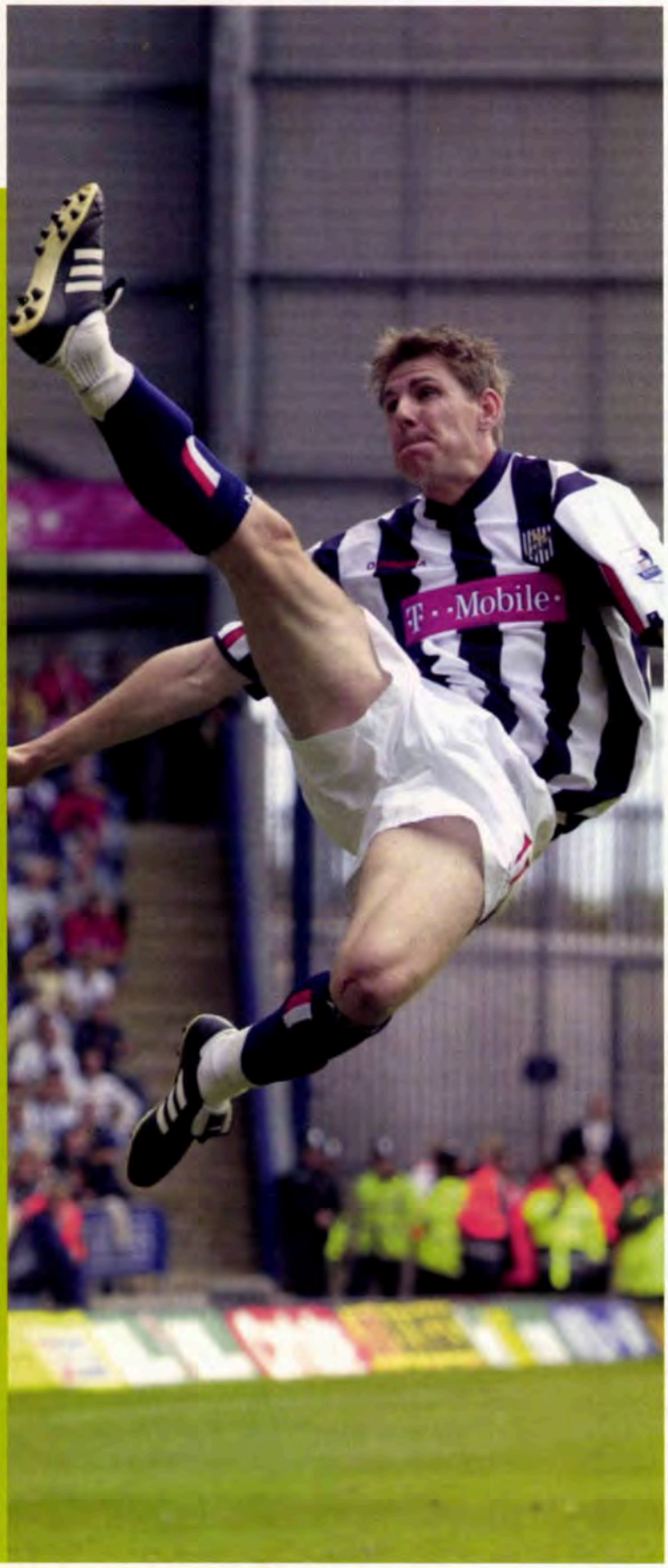
Highly-talented and an irrepressible character, Vagner Love used to celebrate his goals at Palmeiras by blowing kisses to women in the crowd. That is turning out to be a commonplace sight in Russia too.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club	CSKA Moscow (Rus)
Country	Brazil
Born	June 11, 1984, in Rio de Janeiro
Previous club	Palmeiras
International debut	July 2004, v Costa Rica
International caps	1 (0 gls)

Zoltan GERA



Hungary's finest bringing verve to West Brom

FOR ALL THEIR reported differences of opinion, West Bromwich Albion chairman Jeremy Peace and recently-departed manager Gary Megson did manage to collaborate to good effect – as when successfully prising versatile Hungarian international Zoltan Gera away from Ferencvaros for £1.5million in the summer.

Gera was one of the architects of Ferencvaros' League and Cup double last season, and his refined technique is just what newly-promoted West Brom need. Under Megson, the team were always a solid and uncompromising unit, but they will require much more finesse and creativity if their stay in the Premiership is to last longer than a season.

Hungary has not produced such a talent as Gera since the days of Ferencvaros midfield ace Tibor Nyilasi in the late 1970s and early 80s. He has perfect balance, quick feet, can tie defenders in knots with his dribbling ability, is an unerringly accurate passer and crosser, breaks intelligently into the opposition box and delivers a stinging shot with a minimum of back-lift.

"Wherever Zoltan lines up, he can hurt defences with his skills and activity," says Hungary coach Lothar Matthaus, who had no hesitation in making Gera his captain after taking over last December. "He's inventive, has a great touch and fizzes around the pitch."

Gera is a model professional, but he did not always cut such an exemplary figure. As an adolescent he reacted to his parents' divorce by committing a catalogue of misdemeanours – skipping school, smoking, drinking and taking drugs. However, Gera then cleaned up his act, with football serving to give his life much-needed purpose.

After first impressing at the Harkany club in the famous southern Hungarian spa town, he moved back to his hometown of Pecs, a south-western industrial city, where he burst to prominence as a 17-year-old with the local top-flight side in the 1999-00 season.

Cries of "Szipus Gera" ("Gera lives with drugs") from opposing fans haunted him for quite some time. But he remains convinced that openness about his narcotic past is the only way to deal with the issue.

"I want young people who take soft drugs to know that it's possible to beat it, as I did," says Gera. "There are thousands of worthwhile pursuits they can turn to in their lives instead. I hope I can be a role model."

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club	West Bromwich Albion (Eng)
Country	Hungary
Born	April 22, 1979, in Pecs
Previous clubs	Harkany, Pecs, Ferencvaros
International debut	February 2002, v Switzerland
International caps	26 (6 gls)
Honours	Hungarian League 2001, 2004; Hungarian Cup 2003, 2004

Aureliano TORRES

Youngster supplying ammo for Paraguay's front line

PARAGUAY REMAIN THIRD in South America's World Cup qualifying section, but the goals are drying up – just four scored in this year's six rounds. This statistic helps explain why 22-year-old Aureliano Torres was the first member of Paraguay's Olympic silver-medal winners to be promoted to the senior side, in the hope he can create a much-needed supply line after the fading from the international scene of veteran right-back Francisco Arce.

Torres, a left-footed midfielder, has already shown his ability to supply the ammunition for Paraguay's traditionally strong aerial attack after being pitched into their two October World Cup ties. His crosses were the outstanding feature of the home 1-1 draw against Peru and he set up the goal for Carlos Paredes. Torres had taken the scoring reins himself on his World Cup debut four days earlier, hitting the equaliser in the 1-1 draw in Colombia.

It was Torres' capacity to work up and down the left flank for Sol de America that made him the revelation of Paraguayan football in 2003. This year has been even better. He moved to a bigger club, Guarani; he made his senior Paraguay debut at the Copa America; and he hit top form at the Olympics as Paraguay won their first footballing medal. Then came his comfortable step into the World Cup qualifiers.

This is the year, then, when Torres has crossed the threshold from promise to delivery. That's no surprise; crossing is his speciality.

Tim Vickery

FACT FILE

Club	Guarani
Country	Paraguay
Born	June 16, 1982, in Luque
Previous clubs	Nacional, Deportivo Recoleta, Irapuato (Mex), Sol de America
International debut	July 2004, v Costa Rica
International caps	5 (1 gl)
Honours	Olympic silver medallist 2004

CARLOS ALBERTO

Porto prodigy looking to get back on track post-Mourinho

IS THE HONEYMOON period over for FC Porto's teenage Brazilian frontrunner-cum-creator Carlos Alberto? The youngster enjoyed nothing but success in his first six months in Europe, becoming a first-team regular in a left-sided attacking role and catching the eye with his verve and sweet touch as Porto became champions of Portugal and Europe.

In the summer, the 19-year-old looked set for a long association with Porto. He had five years left on his contract and was widely expected to succeed Barcelona-bound Deco as playmaker, reverting to the position where he had made his name at former club Fluminense. But not only did Porto bring in Santos starlet Diego to replace Deco, they also intensified the competition for attacking places by buying Luis Fabiano, Helder Postiga and Ricardo Quaresma. The word is Carlos Alberto could be on his way out as soon as January.

It was only a twist of fate that took Carlos Alberto to Porto in the first place. Then boss Jose Mourinho had gone to Brazil last autumn to watch Sao Paulo left-back Gustavo Nery, only for his eye to be caught by the teenage Fluminense midfield general, through whom his team's most dangerous attacks were channelled.

Mourinho persuaded the Porto board to release £2million to buy the Brazil Under-20 international, but since the coach left for Chelsea in the summer, Carlos Alberto has lost his way somewhat. His career is still in its infancy and he will return again to Europe-wide prominence. The question is, will it be at Porto?

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club	FC Porto (Por)
Country	Brazil
Born	December 11, 1984, in Rio de Janeiro
Previous club	Fluminense
Honours	Champions League 2004; Portuguese League 2004

Mohammed TCHITE

Young African striker with a four-way choice over future

IT IS RARE to come across a footballer who has a claim to a future international career with four different countries but Standard Liege's in-form striker Mohammed Tchite is one.

The 20-year-old was born and brought up in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, but his parents come from neighbouring Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo so he is also entitled to play for them. Then there is also the chance he could appear for Belgium, if and when he qualifies for selection.

Tchite has made an early impact there this season. He has secured a regular first-team place with Standard after scoring three goals in their first seven League games, and he has also been a key driver in the club's progress to the UEFA Cup group stage.

Tchite made his first-team debut for Burundi side Prince Louis at 16 and won the League title with them. However, next year the League was suspended, Tchite had an abortive trial at Charleroi in Belgium and finally ended up with Rwandans Mukura Victory.

Seven games into his spell there he was spotted by a scout and shipped back to Belgium and Standard. At first Tchite battled with injury but eventually got a chance to impress, playing in the final two matches last season. Evidence of Standard's belief in Tchite is that he has taken over the No 25 jersey worn by Belgium striker Emile Mpenza in recent seasons. If he can build a career anything like that of Mpenza, now at Hamburg, he will be doing well.

But it still leaves the international choice in the balance. "Burundi, Rwanda, Congo or Belgium," he says. "Give me a little more time to make up my mind."

Mark Gleeson

FACT FILE

Club Standard Liege (Blg)
Born January 31, 1984, in Bujumbura, Burundi
Previous clubs Prince Louis (Brd), Mukura Victory (Rwa)

Ivan KLASNIC

Croat predator keeping Haristeas on Werder bench

ANGELOS HARISTEAS MAY have been Greece's goalscoring hero at Euro 2004 but he has been forced to assume the role of understudy to impressive Croat Ivan Klasnic at German champions Werder Bremen.

The 24-year-old Hamburg-born forward is arguably the most improved player in Germany over the past 18 months. He was a key factor in Werder's run to the German title last term, scoring 13 goals and making another 11 for Brazilian strike partner Ailton, now with Schalke.

Although Klasnic needs to improve his heading, his other qualities are undeniable – quick acceleration, a feel for a scoring opportunity and precise left-footed finishing make him the perfect predator. Werder general manager Klaus Allofs says: "He is now deservedly rated among the best strikers in the Bundesliga and I'm convinced there's much more to come."

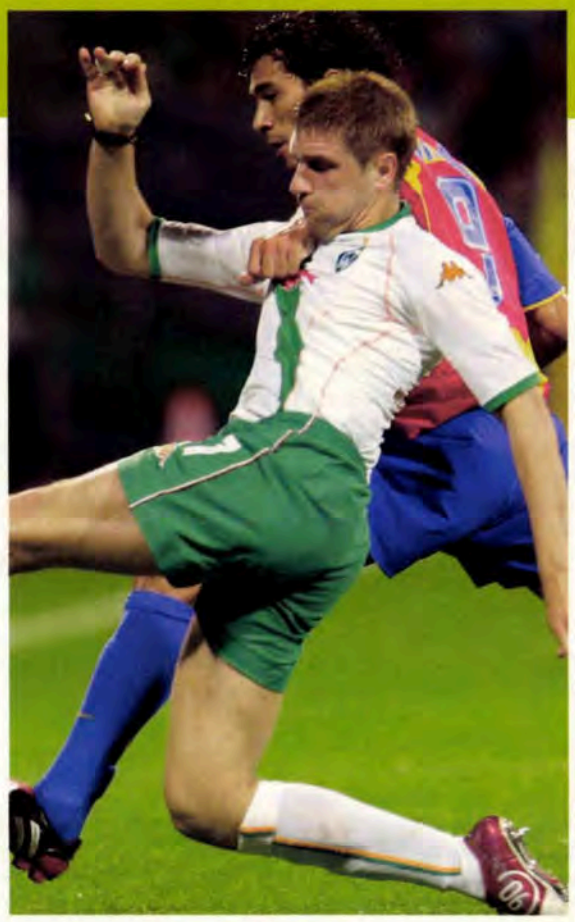
It is only relatively recently that Klasnic's career has slipped into top gear. His first two seasons at Werder following a move from Hamburg side St Pauli in summer 2001 were marked by erratic form and two serious knee injuries. But those difficulties served only to concentrate his mind.

"I realised the clock was ticking on my time in the game," recalls Klasnic, who was surprisingly an unused member of Croatia's Euro 2004 squad. "I decided that from then on, I would work as hard as I could each day."

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Werder Bremen (Ger)
Country Croatia
Born January 29, 1980, in Hamburg
Previous clubs Union 03 Hamburg, TSV Stellingen, St Pauli
International debut February 2004, v Germany
International caps 4 (1 gl)
Honours German League 2004; German Cup 2004



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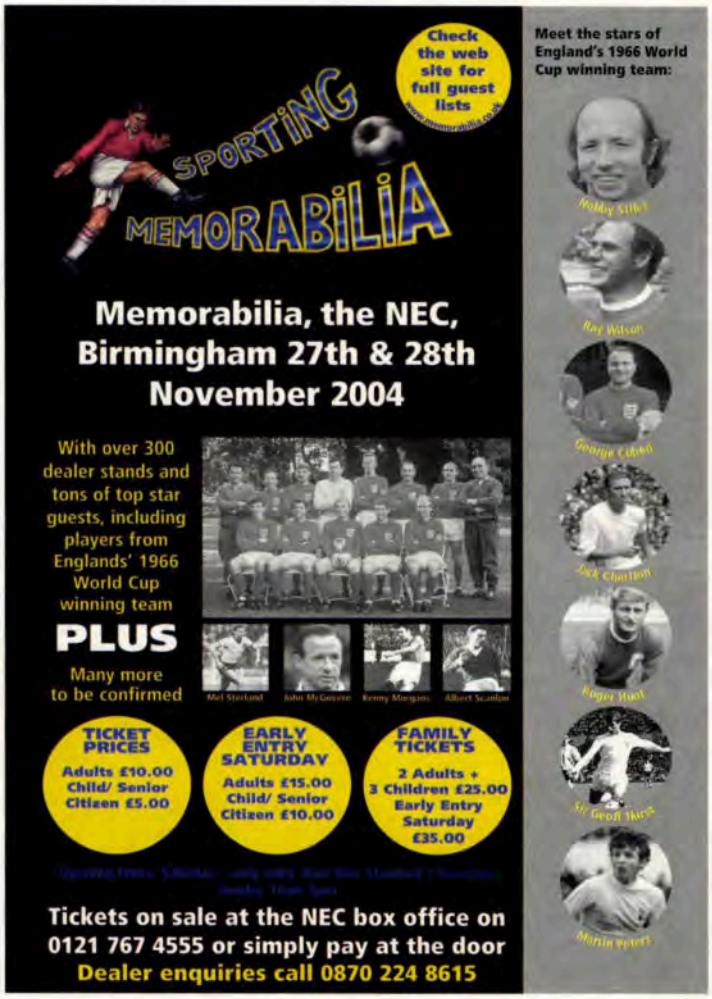

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INTERNATIONALS

Saturday, September 25

Sep 25 - friendly
British Virgin Islands 2
US Virgin Islands 1
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, September 29

Sep 29 - friendly
Kuwait 1
Syria 1

Thursday, September 30

Sep 30 - Gaborone - friendly
Botswana 1 (Gabonamong 13)
Zambia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Chidoda

Saturday, October 2

Oct 2 - Fort Lauderdale, USA - friendly
Jamaica 2 (Hue 89, Jackson 90)
Guatemala 2 (Plata 56, Davila 59)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vaughn (USA)
Sent off: Dawkins (Jamaica) 5min

Sunday, October 3

Oct 3 - friendly
Gabon 2
Benin 0
HT: 0-0

Oct 3 - Tripoli - friendly
Lebanon 1 (Shahoud 64)
Kuwait 3 (B Abdullah pen 42, Al-Harbi 80, Sobeih 87)
HT: 0-1

Wednesday, October 6

Oct 6 - Beirut - friendly
Lebanon 1 (Shahoud 45)
Kuwait 1 (Seraj 60)
HT: 1-0

Oct 6 - Riyadh - friendly
Saudi Arabia 2 (Muwaled 26, Sweid pen 69)
Syria 2 (Rafe 7, Raafat pen 90)
HT: 1-1

Thursday, October 7

Oct 7 - friendly
Oman 1
Iraq 0
HT: 0-0

Friday, October 8

Oct 8 - friendly
Qatar 1
Syria 2
HT: 0-1

Oct 8 - Singapore - friendly
Singapore 1 (Masturi 60)
United Arab Emirates 2 (Masoud 25, Khamis 26)
HT: 0-2

Oct 8 - friendly
Thailand 2
Jordan 3

Saturday, October 9

Oct 9 - Tehran - friendly
Iran 0
Germany 2 (Ernst 5, Brdaric 53)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 110,000. **Ref:** Mane (Kuw)
Iran: Mirzapour (Rahmati 64) - Kaebi (Badavi 83), Kameli-Mofrad (Zare 65), Rezaei, Nosrati, Golmohammadi (Alavi 62), Nekounam, Mahdavikia, Karimi (Borhani 77), Vahedinikbakht (Azizi 58), Hashemian.
Germany: Lehmann - Gorlitz, Worns (Mertesacker 81), Huth, Lahm, Deisler (Borowski 79), Ernst (Schweinsteiger 87), Ballack, Schneider (Hitzlsperger 68), Brdaric (Podolski 73), Klose (Asamoah 55).

Tuesday, October 19

Oct 19 - friendly
Surinam 1
French Guiana 2
HT: 1-1

Wednesday, October 20

Oct 20 - LG Cup semi-final
Libya 2
Nigeria 1
HT: 1-1

Friday, October 22

Oct 22 - LG Cup Final
Libya 1 (Karra pen 59)
Jordan 0
HT: 0-0

Sunday, October 24

Oct 24 - Harare - COSAFA CC semi-final
Zimbabwe 0
Zambia 0
Zambia 5-4 on pens; meet Angola in Final
Zimbabwe: Kapini - Sengu, Chimedza (Lunga 89), Dick, J Matola, Nyandoro, Sibanda, Yohane, Gombami, Tsipa (Sandaka 70), Njabulo Ncube (Badza 53).
Zambia: Mweene - Hachilensa, Musonda, Lungu, Billy Mwanza, Chansa, Bakala, Mumamba (Mwandila 51), Katongo, Phiri (Fichite 60), Kilambe.

Wednesday, October 27

Oct 27 - East Rutherford, USA - friendly
Mexico 2 (Fonseca 42, 47)
Ecuador 1 (Calle 81)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Prus (USA)
Mexico: Munoz - Altamirano (Osorno 83), Galindo, H Sanchez, Salcido, Lozano (Pineda 67), Pardo (Mendez 46), Naelson (Salazar 46), R Garcia, Marquez (Arce 46), Fonseca.
Ecuador: Lanza - Calle, Guerron (Lastra 46), G Espinoza, Reasco, W Ayovi (Candelario 81), Mendez, M Ayovi, E Tenorio (Sanchez 63), Mina (Ordonez 46), Salas.

OCEANIA NATIONS CUP

Final, 1st leg

Oct 9 - Honiara
Solomon Islands 1 (B Suri 59)
Australia 5 (Skoko 5, 28, Milicic 19, Emerton 44, Elrich 79)
HT: 0-4. **Ref:** O'Leary (NZ)
Australia: Schwarzer - Muscat, Colosimo, Neill (McKain 75), T Vidmar, Popovic, Emerton (Sterjovski 60), Skoko, Grella (Wilkshire 60), Elrich, Milicic.

Final, 2nd leg

Oct 12 - Sydney
Australia 6 (Milicic 5, Kewell 9, T Vidmar 60, Thompson 79, Elrich 80, Emerton 89)
Solomon Islands 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 19,208. **Ref:** Rakaroi (Fij)
Australia 11-1 on agg; qualify for 2005 Confederations Cup
Australia: Schwarzer - Muscat (McKain 46), Colosimo, Neill, T Vidmar, Popovic, Emerton, Skoko (Thompson 46), Kewell (Elrich 46), Wilkshire, Milicic.
Solomon Islands: Ray - Houkarawa (Leo 88), G Suri, Kilifa, Maemae (Samani 75), Konofilia, B Suri (Billy 46), Menapi, Lui, Omokirio, Fa'Arodo.

2006 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

AFRICA

5 finals berths

Group 1

Oct 10 - Brazzaville
Congo 2 (Bouanga 75, Mamouna-Ossila 81)
Zambia 3 (Mbesuma 2, 37, 65)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Yacoubi (Tun)

Oct 10 - Monrovia
Liberia 0
Senegal 3 (P B Diop 41, H Camara 50, 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Aboubacar (IvC)
Senegal: Sylva - Daf (I Faye 80), P M Diop, S Diawara, Gueye (S N'Diaye 58), Diatta, Diao, P B Diop, Abdoulaye Faye, H Camara, Moussa N'Diaye (S Camara 85).

Oct 10 - Lome
Togo 1 (Adebayor 23)
Mali 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Nnjike (Cam)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Togo	5	3	1	1	6	2	10
Zambia	5	3	1	1	6	4	10
Senegal	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Congo	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Liberia	5	1	1	3	1	7	4
Mali	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

05.06.04 .....Senegal-Congo.....2-0
05.06.04 .....Zambia-Togo.....1-0
06.06.04 .....Liberia-Mali.....1-0
19.06.04 .....Mali-Zambia.....1-1
20.06.04 .....Congo-Liberia.....3-0
20.06.04 .....Togo-Senegal.....3-1
03.07.04 .....Senegal-Zambia.....1-0
04.07.04 .....Congo-Mali.....1-0
04.07.04 .....Liberia-Togo.....0-0
04.09.04 .....Zambia-Liberia.....1-0
05.09.04 .....Mali-Senegal.....2-2
05.09.04 .....Togo-Congo.....2-0
10.10.04 .....Congo-Zambia.....2-3
10.10.04 .....Liberia-Senegal.....0-3
10.10.04 .....Togo-Mali.....1-0
25.03.05 .....Mali-Togo
25.03.05 .....Senegal-Liberia
25.03.05 .....Zambia-Congo
03.06.05 .....Congo-Senegal
03.06.05 .....Mali-Liberia
03.06.05 .....Togo-Zambia
17.06.05 .....Liberia-Congo
17.06.05 .....Senegal-Togo
17.06.05 .....Zambia-Mali
02.09.05 .....Mali-Congo
02.09.05 .....Togo-Liberia
02.09.05 .....Zambia-Senegal
07.10.05 .....Congo-Togo
07.10.05 .....Liberia-Zambia
07.10.05 .....Senegal-Mali

Group 2

Oct 9 - Praia
Cape Verde Islands 1 (Cafu 2)
Burkina Faso 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Aziaka (Tog)

Oct 10 - Kumasi
Ghana 0
DR Congo 0
Ref: Coulibaly (Mli)

Oct 10 - Kampala
Uganda 0
South Africa 1 (B McCarthy pen 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Gasingwa (Rwa)
South Africa: Vonk - Nzama, Rammile, A Mokoena, Morris, Pienaar (Sibaya 78), Fortune, Vilakazi, Zuma (Van Heerden 85), B McCarthy, T Arendse (Buckley 76).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
Ghana	5	2	2	1	6	2	8
DR Congo	5	2	2	1	5	4	8
Cape Verde Is	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
Burkina Faso	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Uganda	5	1	1	3	2	5	4

05.06.04 .....Burkina Faso-Ghana.....1-0
05.06.04 .....South Africa-Cape Verde Is.....2-1
05.06.04 .....Uganda-DR Congo.....1-0
19.06.04 .....Cape Verde Is-Uganda.....1-0
20.06.04 .....DR Congo-Burkina Faso.....3-2
20.06.04 .....Ghana-South Africa.....3-0
03.07.04 .....Cape Verde Is-DR Congo.....1-1
03.07.04 .....South Africa-Burkina Faso.....2-0
03.07.04 .....Uganda-Ghana.....1-1
04.09.04 .....Burkina Faso-Uganda.....2-0
05.09.04 .....DR Congo-South Africa.....1-0
05.09.04 .....Ghana-Cape Verde Is.....2-0
09.10.04 .....Cape Verde Is-Burkina Faso.....1-0
10.10.04 .....Ghana-DR Congo.....0-0
10.10.04 .....Uganda-South Africa.....0-1
25.03.05 .....Burkina Faso-Cape Verde Is
25.03.05 .....DR Congo-Ghana
25.03.05 .....South Africa-Uganda
03.06.05 .....Cape Verde Is-South Africa
03.06.05 .....DR Congo-Uganda
03.06.05 .....Ghana-Burkina Faso
17.06.05 .....Burkina Faso-DR Congo
17.06.05 .....South Africa-Ghana
17.06.05 .....Uganda-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 .....Burkina Faso-South Africa
02.09.05 .....DR Congo-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 .....Ghana-Uganda
07.10.05 .....Cape Verde Is-Ghana
07.10.05 .....South Africa-DR Congo
07.10.05 .....Uganda-Burkina Faso

Group 3

Oct 8 - Tripoli
Libya 2 (Kara 31, Osman 85)
Egypt 1 (Zaki 57)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Haimoudi (Alg)
Sent off: Abdussalah (Libya) 87min
Egypt: N El-Sayed - Abd Rabo, Abdelwahab (Abougerisha 85), Shawky, Ramy, Fathi (T El-Sayed 46), Al-Tabei, A Hassan, Goma'a, Aboutraika, Zaki.

Oct 9 - Omdurman
Sudan 1 (Agab Sido 17)
Cameroon 1 (Job 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Buenkadila (DRC)
Cameroon: Souleymanou - Perrier-Doumbe, Song, Atouba, Geremi, Tchato (Roudolphe 61), Tum (Tomou 46), Makoun, Djemba Djemba, Job, Feutchine (Mbami 46).

Oct 10 - Cotonou
Benin 0
Ivory Coast 1 (Dindane 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Sowe (Gam)
Ivory Coast: Tizie - K Toure, Zokora, Blaise Kouassi, Guel, Meite, Yapi Yapo (B Kone 61), Y Toure, C Domoraud, Dindane (A Kone 79), Kalou.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Libya	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Cameroon	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Egypt	5	2	1	2	11	9	7
Benin	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
Sudan	5	0	2	3	2	11	2

06.06.04 .....Cameroon-Benin.....2-1
06.06.04 .....Ivory Coast-Libya.....2-0
06.06.04 .....Sudan-Egypt.....0-3
18.06.04 .....Libya-Cameroon.....0-0
20.06.04 .....Benin-Sudan.....1-1
20.06.04 .....Egypt-Ivory Coast.....1-2
03.07.04 .....Sudan-Libya.....0-1
04.07.04 .....Benin-Egypt.....3-3
04.07.04 .....Cameroon-Ivory Coast.....2-0
03.09.04 .....Libya-Benin.....4-1
05.09.04 .....Egypt-Cameroon.....3-2
05.09.04 .....Ivory Coast-Sudan.....5-0
08.10.04 .....Libya-Egypt.....2-1

09.10.04 .....Sudan-Cameroon 1-1
10.10.04 .....Benin-Ivory Coast 0-1
25.03.05 .....Cameroon-Sudan
25.03.05 .....Egypt-Libya
25.03.05 .....Ivory Coast-Benin
03.06.05 .....Benin-Cameroon
03.06.05 .....Egypt-Sudan
03.06.05 .....Libya-Ivory Coast
17.06.05 .....Cameroon-Libya
17.06.05 .....Ivory Coast-Egypt
17.06.05 .....Sudan-Benin
02.09.05 .....Egypt-Benin
02.09.05 .....Ivory Coast-Cameroon
02.09.05 .....Libya-Sudan
07.10.05 .....Benin-Libya
07.10.05 .....Cameroon-Egypt
07.10.05 .....Sudan-Ivory Coast

Group 4

Oct 9 - Libreville
Gabon 1 (Issiemou pen 29)
Nigeria 1 (Aiyegbeni 50)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Yameogo (BuF)
Nigeria: Enyeama - Yobo, Udeze, Enakarhire, Uche (Kaku 85), Olofinjana, Odiah, Obodo, N Kanu (Ogbeche 73), Ekwueme (Odemwingie 59), Aiyegbeni.

Oct 9 - Kigali
Rwanda 1 (Said 9)
Algeria 1 (Bourahli 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Abdel Rahman (Sud)

Oct 10 - Luanda
Angola 1 (Flavio 53)
Zimbabwe 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lwanja (Mwi)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Angola	5	3	2	0	5	2	11
Nigeria	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
Gabon	5	1	3	1	8	7	6
Zimbabwe	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Rwanda	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Algeria	5	0	3	2	2	6	3

05.06.04 .....Algeria-Angola 0-0
05.06.04 .....Gabon-Zimbabwe 1-1
05.06.04 .....Nigeria-Rwanda 2-0
19.06.04 .....Rwanda-Gabon 3-1
20.06.04 .....Angola-Nigeria 1-0
20.06.04 .....Zimbabwe-Algeria 1-1
03.07.04 .....Gabon-Angola 2-2
03.07.04 .....Nigeria-Algeria 1-0
03.07.04 .....Rwanda-Zimbabwe 0-2
03.09.04 .....Zimbabwe-Nigeria 0-3
05.09.04 .....Algeria-Gabon 0-3
05.09.04 .....Angola-Rwanda 1-0
09.10.04 .....Gabon-Nigeria 1-1
09.10.04 .....Rwanda-Algeria 1-1
10.10.04 .....Angola-Zimbabwe 1-0
25.03.05 .....Algeria-Rwanda
25.03.05 .....Nigeria-Gabon
25.03.05 .....Zimbabwe-Angola
03.06.05 .....Angola-Algeria
03.06.05 .....Rwanda-Nigeria
03.06.05 .....Zimbabwe-Gabon
17.06.05 .....Algeria-Zimbabwe
17.06.05 .....Gabon-Rwanda
17.06.05 .....Nigeria-Angola
02.09.05 .....Algeria-Nigeria
02.09.05 .....Angola-Gabon
02.09.05 .....Zimbabwe-Rwanda
07.10.05 .....Gabon-Algeria
07.10.05 .....Nigeria-Zimbabwe
07.10.05 .....Rwanda-Angola

Group 5

Oct 9 - Gaborone
Botswana 2 (Molwantwa 51, Selolwane 58)
Kenya 1 (Oliech 5)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,500. **Ref:** Bernardo Colembi (Ang)

Oct 9 - Blantyre
Malawi 2 (Mwafulirwa 19, Chipatala 37)
Tunisia 2 (Jaziri 82, Ghodhbane 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Awuye (Uga)
Tunisia: Fadhel - Yahia, Mnari, Nafti (Bouazizi 53), Boussaidi, Badra (Saidi 46), Ghodhbane, Jaidi, Chedli (Zitouni 66), Jaziri, Santos.

Oct 10 - Conakry
Guinea 1 (Mansare 50)
Morocco 1 (Chamakh 5)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Monteiro Duarte (CVI)
Morocco: Lamyaghri - Yaacoubi (Diane 63), El-Karkouri, Naybet, Hdiouad, Kharja, Safri, Ouaddou (Chihab 46), Zairi (Y Hadji 70), Mokhtari, Chamakh.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Morocco	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Botswana	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
Tunisia	4	1	2	1	8	6	5
Kenya	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Malawi	5	0	3	2	6	9	3

05.06.04 .....Malawi-Morocco 1-1
05.06.04 .....Tunisia-Botswana 4-1
19.06.04 .....Botswana-Malawi 2-0
20.06.04 .....Guinea-Tunisia 2-1
03.07.04 .....Botswana-Morocco 0-1
03.07.04 .....Malawi-Guinea 1-1
04.09.04 .....Kenya-Malawi 3-2
04.09.04 .....Morocco-Tunisia 1-1
05.09.04 .....Guinea-Botswana 4-0
09.10.04 .....Botswana-Kenya 2-1
09.10.04 .....Malawi-Tunisia 2-2
10.10.04 .....Guinea-Morocco 1-1
17.11.04 .....Kenya-Guinea
09.02.05 .....Morocco-Kenya
25.03.05 .....Kenya-Botswana
25.03.05 .....Morocco-Guinea
25.03.05 .....Tunisia-Malawi
03.06.05 .....Morocco-Malawi
03.06.05 .....Botswana-Tunisia
03.06.05 .....Guinea-Kenya
17.06.05 .....Kenya-Morocco
17.06.05 .....Malawi-Botswana
17.06.05 .....Tunisia-Guinea
17.08.05 .....Tunisia-Kenya
02.09.05 .....Kenya-Tunisia
02.09.05 .....Morocco-Botswana
02.09.05 .....Guinea-Malawi
07.10.05 .....Malawi-Kenya
07.10.05 .....Tunisia-Morocco
07.10.05 .....Botswana-Guinea

Group winners qualify for finals

ASIA

4.5 finals berths

1st stage

Group 1

Oct 13 - Vientiane
Laos 2 (Phaphouvanin 13, Thongphachan 53)
Jordan 3 (Al-Maharmeh 28, Al-Shaqran 73, 76)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Gosh (Ban)
Sent off: Phaphouvanin (Laos) 84min

Oct 13 - Doha
Qatar 2 (Rajab 18, Golmohammadi og 75)
Iran 3 (Hashemian 9, 89, Borhani 78)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Kwon (SKo)
Iran: Rahmati - Mahdavikia, Golmohammadi, Rezaei, Nekoonam, Vahedinikbakht (Borhani 74), Zare (Mobali 64), Nosrati, Karimi, Hashemian, Kaebi (Azizi 86).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	5	4	0	1	15	4	12
Jordan	5	4	0	1	10	4	12
Qatar	5	2	0	3	14	8	6
Laos	5	0	0	5	3	26	0

18.02.04 .....Iran-Qatar 3-1
18.02.04 .....Jordan-Laos 5-0
31.03.04 .....Jordan-Qatar 1-0
31.03.04 .....Laos-Iran 0-7
09.06.04 .....Iran-Jordan 0-1
09.06.04 .....Qatar-Laos 5-0
08.09.04 .....Jordan-Iran 0-2
08.09.04 .....Laos-Qatar 1-6
13.10.04 .....Laos-Jordan 2-3
13.10.04 .....Qatar-Iran 2-3
17.11.04 .....Iran-Laos
17.11.04 .....Qatar-Jordan

Group 2

Oct 13 - Amman, Jordan
Iraq 1 (Qusai 29)
Uzbekistan 2 (Shatskikh 10, Geinrikh 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Maidin (Sin)
Sent off: Kadhim (Iraq) 76min

Oct 14 - Taipei
Taiwan 0
Palestine 1 (Amar 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Rasheed (Mdv)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uzbekistan	5	4	1	0	10	2	13
Iraq	5	2	2	1	13	6	8
Palestine	5	2	1	2	10	7	7
Taiwan	5	0	0	5	2	20	0

18.02.04 .....Palestine-Taiwan 8-0
18.02.04 .....Uzbekistan-Iraq 1-1
31.03.04 .....Palestine-Iraq 1-1
31.03.04 .....Taiwan-Uzbekistan 0-1
09.06.04 .....Iraq-Taiwan 6-1
09.06.04 .....Uzbekistan-Palestine 3-0
08.09.04 .....Palestine-Uzbekistan 0-3
08.09.04 .....Taiwan-Iraq 1-4
13.10.04 .....Iraq-Uzbekistan 1-2
14.10.04 .....Taiwan-Palestine 0-1
16.11.04 .....Iraq-Palestine
17.11.04 .....Uzbekistan-Taiwan

Group 3

Oct 13 - Muscat
Oman 0
Japan 1 (T Suzuki 52)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Lu (Chn)
Japan: Kawaguchi - Tanaka, Miyamoto, Alex, Fukunishi, Kaji, Ono, Nakamura, Takahara, T Suzuki (Tamada 90), Nakazawa.

Oct 13 - Singapore
Singapore 2 (Daud 73, Mohd 76)
India 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,609. **Ref:** Husain (Bhn)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	5	5	0	0	15	1	15
Oman	5	3	0	2	14	3	9
Singapore	5	1	0	4	3	12	3
India	5	1	0	4	2	18	3

18.02.04 .....India-Singapore 1-0
18.02.04 .....Japan-Oman 1-0
31.03.04 .....India-Oman 1-5
31.03.04 .....Singapore-Japan 1-2
09.06.04 .....Japan-India 7-0
09.06.04 .....Oman-Singapore 7-0
08.09.04 .....India-Japan 0-4
08.09.04 .....Singapore-Oman 0-2
13.10.04 .....Oman-Japan 0-1
13.10.04 .....Singapore-India 2-0
17.11.04 .....Japan-Singapore
17.11.04 .....Oman-India

Group 4

Oct 13 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 2 (Chu Siu-kei 5, Wong Chun-yue 51)
Malaysia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,425. **Ref:** Ghandour (Lby)
Sent off: Ahamd Rakhil (Malaysia) 79min

Oct 13 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 1 (Jumah 47)
China 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Kunsuta (Tha)
China: Liu Yunfei - Zhang Yaokun, Li Weifeng, Shao Jiayi, Sun Xiang (Sun Jihai 76), Yang Pu, Wei Xin, Zhao Junzhe, Xu Yunlong (Yan Song 65), Li Jinyu, Hao Haidong (Li Yi 46).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	5	4	0	1	9	1	12
China	5	4	0	1	7	1	12
Hong Kong	5	2	0	3	5	8	6
Malaysia	5	0	0	5	1	12	0

18.02.04 .....China-Kuwait 1-0
18.02.04 .....Malaysia-Hong Kong 1-3
31.03.04 .....Hong Kong-China 0-1
31.03.04 .....Malaysia-Kuwait 0-2
09.06.04 .....China-Malaysia 4-0
09.06.04 .....Kuwait-Hong Kong 4-0
08.09.04 .....Hong Kong-Kuwait 0-2
08.09.04 .....Malaysia-China 0-1
13.10.04 .....Hong Kong-Malaysia 2-0
13.10.04 .....Kuwait-China 1-0
17.11.04 .....China-Hong Kong
17.11.04 .....Kuwait-Malaysia

Group 5

Oct 13 - Pyongyang
North Korea 2 (Ri Han-ja 1, Hong Yong-jo 64)
Yemen 1 (Jaber 76)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Vo (Vie)

Oct 13 - Bangkok
Thailand 3 (Jiensathawong 10, Anon 30, Therdsak 67)
United Arab Emirates 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Nishimura (Jap)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	5	3	2	0	11	4	11
UAE	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Thailand	5	2	0	3	8	9	6
Yemen	5	1	1	3	5	10	4

18.02.04 .....UAE-Thailand 1-0
18.02.04 .....Yemen-North Korea 1-1
31.03.04 .....North Korea-UAE 0-0
31.03.04 .....Yemen-Thailand 0-3
09.06.04 .....Thailand-North Korea 1-4
09.06.04 .....UAE-Yemen 3-0
08.09.04 .....North Korea-Thailand 4-1
08.09.04 .....Yemen-UAE 3-1
13.10.04 .....North Korea-Yemen 2-1
13.10.04 .....Thailand-UAE 3-0
17.11.04 .....Thailand-Yemen
17.11.04 .....UAE-North Korea

Group 6

Oct 13 - Damascus
Syria 2 (Shekh Eleshra 12, Alhoussain 18)
Bahrain 2 (Mahfoodh 27, T Mohamed 90)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Moradi (Irn)

Oct 13 - Dushanbe
Tajikistan 2 (Rabiev 19, Hakimov 37)
Kyrgyzstan 1 (Chikishev 84)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Al-Enezi (Kuw)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	5	3	2	0	11	4	11
Syria	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Tajikistan	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Kyrgyzstan	5	0	1	4	4	12	1

18.02.04 .....Bahrain-Syria 2-1
18.02.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan 1-2
31.03.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Syria 1-1
31.03.04 .....Tajikistan-Bahrain 0-0
09.06.04 .....Bahrain-Kyrgyzstan 5-0
10.06.04 .....Syria-Tajikistan 2-1
08.09.04 .....Kyrgyzstan-Bahrain 1-2
08.09.04 .....Tajikistan-Syria 0-1
13.10.04 .....Syria-Bahrain 2-2
13.10.04 .....Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan 2-1
17.11.04 .....Bahrain-Tajikistan
17.11.04 .....Syria-Kyrgyzstan

Group 7

Oct 13 - Beirut
Lebanon 1 (Naserdeen 27)
South Korea 1 (Choi Jin-cheul 8)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-cheul, Park Jae-hong, Yoo Sang-chul, Lee Min-sung, Lee Young-pyo, Lee Chun-soo, Song Chong-gug, Kim Do-heon (Kim Jung-woo 26), Lee Dong-gook (Seol Ki-hyeon 46), Ahn Jung-hwan.

Oct 13 - Male
Maldives 3 (Thariq 29, Ashfaq 68, 85)
Vietnam 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Haq (Ind)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	5	3	2	0	7	2	11
Lebanon	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
Maldives	5	1	1	3	5	12	4
Vietnam	5	1	0	4	5	9	3

18.02.04 .....South Korea-Lebanon 2-0
18.02.04 .....Vietnam-Maldives 4-0
31.03.04 .....Maldives-South Korea 0-0
31.03.04 .....Vietnam-Lebanon 0-2
09.06.04 .....Lebanon-Maldives 3-0
09.06.04 .....South Korea-Vietnam 2-0
08.09.04 .....Maldives-Lebanon 2-5
08.09.04 .....Vietnam-South Korea 1-2
13.10.04 .....Lebanon-South Korea 1-1
13.10.04 .....Maldives-Vietnam 3-0
17.11.04 .....Lebanon-Vietnam
17.11.04 .....South Korea-Maldives

Group 8

Oct 9 - Colombo
Sri Lanka 2 (Isuru Perera 47, R Mudiyanselage 57)
Turkmenistan 2 (D Bayramov 20, Nazarov 70)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Al-Bannai (UAE)
Sent off: Maduranga (Sri Lanka) 72min

Oct 12 - Jakarta
Indonesia 1 (Jaya 50)
Saudi Arabia 3 (S Al-Meshal 9, Sulaimani 13, Al-Qahtani 80)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Mohd Salleh (Mly)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	5	5	0	0	11	1	15
Turkmenistan	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Indonesia	5	1	1	3	5	11	4
Sri Lanka	5	0	2	3	4	8	2

18.02.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Indonesia.....3-0
18.02.04 .....Turkmenistan-Sri Lanka.....2-0
31.03.04 .....Sri Lanka-Saudi Arabia 0-1
31.03.04 .....Turkmenistan-Indonesia 3-1
09.06.04 .....Indonesia-Sri Lanka 1-0
09.06.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Turkmenistan 3-0
08.09.04 .....Sri Lanka-Indonesia 2-2
08.09.04 .....Turkmenistan-Saudi Arabia 0-1
09.10.04 .....Sri Lanka-Turkmenistan.....2-2
12.10.04 .....Indonesia-Saudi Arabia.....1-3
17.11.04 .....Indonesia-Turkmenistan
17.11.04 .....Saudi Arabia-Sri Lanka

Group winners advance to 2nd stage

2nd stage

The eight qualifiers are divided into two groups of four. The winners and runners-up of these groups qualify for finals. The two third-placed sides meet in a two-leg play-off, the winner of which meets the fourth-placed CONCACAF team over two legs for a place in finals

CONCACAF

3.5 finals berths

2nd stage

Group 1

Oct 9 - San Salvador
El Salvador 0
United States 2 (McBride 29, Johnson 75)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)
El Salvador: Alfaro - Tobar, Marvin Gonzalez, V Velasquez, Umanzor, Merino, Rodriguez (Galdamez 80), Cabrera (Zelaya 80), Benitez, F Gonzalez (Jose Martinez 70), Cerritos.
United States: Keller - Pope, Berhalter, Gibbs, Hejduk, Zavagnin, Beasley, Donovan, Mathis (Lewis 68), McBride (Johnson 71), Wolff (Jones 88).

Oct 9 - Panama City
Panama 1 (Brown 24)
Jamaica 1 (Whitmore 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Pineda (Hnd)
Panama: Gonzalez - Rivera, Moreno, Henriquez, J Torres, Phillips, Blanco, Medina (Miranda 79), Brown (Jorge Dely Valdes 86), Mitre (M Torres 63), Julio Dely Valdes.
Jamaica: Ricketts (A Lawrence 60) - J Lawrence (Goodison 46), King (A Williams 62), Fuller, Whitmore, C Davis, Ziadie, Ralph, Hyde, Gardner, Marshall.

Oct 13 - Kingston
Jamaica 0
El Salvador 0
Att: 12,000. **Ref:** Quesada (CR)
Jamaica: A Lawrence - C Davis, Goodison, J Lawrence, Marshall (A Williams 64), Whitmore, Fuller (J Johnson 82), Gardner, Ziadie, King (Burton 70), Ralph.
El Salvador: Alfaro (S Rivera 46) - Tobar, Benitez, V Velasquez, Prado, Merino, Cerritos (Cabrera 83), F Gonzalez, Alas, Umanzor, Rodriguez (Saravia 73).

Oct 13 - Washington DC
United States 6 (Donovan 21, 57, Johnson 70, 84, 87, J Torres og 90)
Panama 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,793. **Ref:** Ramdhan (T&T)
United States: Keller - Hejduk, Pope (Onyewu 86), Berhalter, Bocanegra, Zavagnin (Mastroeni 73), Beasley, Donovan, Lewis, McBride, Wolff (Johnson 65).
Panama: Gonzalez - Moreno (Zapata 61), J Torres, Rivera, Henriquez (Miranda 39), Blanco, M Torres (Mitre 74), Medina, Phillips, Brown, Julio Dely Valdes.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	5	3	2	0	12	2	11
Jamaica	5	1	3	1	6	4	6
Panama	5	1	2	2	5	11	5
El Salvador	5	1	1	3	2	8	4

18.08.04 .....El Salvador-Panama.....2-1
18.08.04 .....Jamaica-United States.....1-1
04.09.04 .....Jamaica-Panama 1-2
04.09.04 .....United States-El Salvador 2-0
08.09.04 .....El Salvador-Jamaica 0-3
08.09.04 .....Panama-United States 1-1
09.10.04 .....El Salvador-United States 0-2
09.10.04 .....Panama-Jamaica 1-1
13.10.04 .....Jamaica-El Salvador 0-0
13.10.04 .....United States-Panama 6-0
17.11.04 .....Panama-El Salvador
17.11.04 .....United States-Jamaica

Group 2

Oct 9 - San Jose
Costa Rica 5 (Hernandez 19, Wanchope 36, 63, 68, R Fonseca 85)
Guatemala 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Archundia (Mex)
Costa Rica: Porras - Marin, Heron (R Fonseca 71), Lopez, A Solis (Centeno 67), Wallace, L Gonzalez, Hernandez, Bryce, G Martinez (Chinchilla 75), Wanchope.
Guatemala: Trigueno - Melgar, Cabrera, Thompson, Ramirez, N Martinez, Plata, Pezzarossi (W Estrada 79), Sanabria, Davila (Cabrera 71), Rodriguez (Castillo 63).

Oct 9 - San Pedro Sula
Honduras 1 (Turcios 90)
Canada 1 (Hutchinson 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Stott (USA)
Honduras: Valladares - Ninrod Medina, C Pavon, Leon, M Suazo (E Martinez 80), Mendoza, W Palacios (S Martinez 46), Alvarez (Turcios 74), Guevara, Guerrero, Bernardez.
Canada: Onstad - Watson, Jazic, De Rosario, De Vos, Imhof, Grande (Bernier 78), Hutchinson, De Guzman (Simpson 74), Hume (Occean 65), Radzinski.

Oct 13 - Vancouver
Canada 1 (De Rosario 12)
Costa Rica 3 (Wanchope 49, Sunsing 81, Hernandez 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,728. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
Canada: Onstad - Watson, De Vos, De Guzman, Imhof, Hutchinson, Grande (Occean 70), Jazic (Peters 76), Radzinski, Hume (Corazzin 58), De Rosario.
Costa Rica: Mesen - Marin, G Martinez, Lopez, A Solis, L Gonzalez, Badilla, Bryce (Hernandez 70), Scott (Sunsing 76), Chinchilla, Herron (Wanchope 29).

Oct 13 - Guatemala City
Guatemala 1 (Ruiz 44)
Honduras 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)
Guatemala: Klee - Melgar, Cabrera, Thompson, Romero, Ramirez, Martinez, Sanabria, Ruiz (Davila 82), Rodriguez (Castillo 90), Pezzarossi.
Honduras: Valladares - Ninrod Medina, M Suazo, R Morales, Mendoza, Leon (Turcios 76), Guevara, Guerrero, Bernardez, S Martinez (C Pavon 70), Lopez (Nunez 46).

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	5	3	1	1	7	8	10
Costa Rica	5	3	0	2	12	8	9
Honduras	5	1	3	1	9	7	6
Canada	5	0	2	3	3	8	2

18.08.04 .....Canada-Guatemala.....0-2
18.08.04 .....Costa Rica-Honduras 2-5
04.09.04 .....Canada-Honduras 1-1
05.09.04 .....Guatemala-Costa Rica.....2-1
08.09.04 .....Costa Rica-Canada.....1-0
08.09.04 .....Honduras-Guatemala 2-2
09.10.04 .....Costa Rica-Guatemala.....5-0
09.10.04 .....Honduras-Canada 1-1
13.10.04 .....Canada-Costa Rica.....1-3
13.10.04 .....Guatemala-Honduras 1-0
17.11.04 .....Guatemala-Canada
17.11.04 .....Honduras-Costa Rica

Group 3

Oct 6 - Pachuca
Mexico 7 (Borgetti 31, 68, 77, 89, Lozano 54, 63, Santana 81)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Liu (Chn)
Mexico: 0 Sanchez - F Rodriguez, Marquez, Lopez, Salcido, Naelson (R Garcia 66), Arellano (Santana 72), Mendez (L Perez 66), Lozano, Blanco, Borgetti.
St Vincent & The Grenadines: Andrews - B Samuel (Francois 46), Hendrickson, Gonsalves (Francis 35), Jack, Joseph, Guy (S Samuel 65), Velox, Williams, Ballantyne, M Forde. *Sent off: Joseph 69min.*

Oct 10 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 0
Mexico 1 (Borgetti 25)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Alfaro (ElS)
St Vincent & The Grenadines: Andrews - C Huggins, Hendrickson, M Charles, James, Ballantyne (V John 74), Williams, Jack (S Samuel 46), Velox, W John (Prince 61), M Forde. *Sent off: James 41min.*
Mexico: 0 Sanchez - F Rodriguez, Marquez, Salcido, Naelson (Osorno 64), Lopez (H Sanchez 18), Mendez, Lozano, Blanco (L Perez 78), Arellano, Borgetti.

Oct 10 - Marabella
Trinidad & Tobago 5 (Riley og 8, S John 24, 80, Glenn 71, Nixon 88)
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (Gumbs pen 43)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Valenzuela (USA)
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Cox, M Andrews, Sancho, Eve, Rojas (Rahim 36), Glenn (Nixon 79), Rougier, Theobald (Spann 58), Jones, S John.
St Kitts & Nevis: Byron - Richards, T Riley, A Riley, Newton, G Isaac, Gomez (Harris 85), Leader (J Francis 80), Lake (Sargeant 51), Gumbs, Huggins.

Oct 13 - Puebla
Mexico 3 (Naelson 19, Lozano 55, 84)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Sibrian (ElS)
Mexico: 0 Sanchez - F Rodriguez, Salcido, R Garcia (Pineda 83), H Sanchez, Mendez, Naelson (Santana 84), Arellano (Arce 81), Lozano, L Perez, Borgetti.
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Cox, M Andrews, Sancho, Eve, Glenn (McFarlane 76), Boucaud (Theobald 67), Lawrence (Spann 80), Jones, Rahim, S John.

Oct 13 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 0
St Vincent & The Grenadines 3 (Velox 19, 85, S Samuel 65)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Whittaker (Cay)
St Kitts & Nevis: Benjamin - Richards, A Riley, Newton, Harris, T Riley (J Francis 67), Lake (Sargeant 60), Gumbs, Gomez, Huggins, Leader (Challenger 78).
St Vincent & The Grenadines: Andrews - C Huggins, Hendrickson, M Charles, Velox (V John 86), S Samuel, Ballantyne, Haynes (Burgin 79), W John (Prince 90), Guy, M Forde.

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	4	0	0	14	1	12
Trinidad & Tob	5	3	0	2	10	8	9
St Vincent/G'nes	5	2	0	3	4	10	6
St Kitts & Nevis	4	0	0	4	2	11	0

18.08.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-Trin & Tob.....0-2
04.09.04 .....St Kitts & Nevis-Trinidad & Tob...1-2
08.09.04 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico 1-3
10.09.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-St Kitts & N...1-0
06.10.04 .....Mexico-St Vincent/G'dines 7-0
10.10.04 .....St Vincent/G'dines-Mexico.....0-1
10.10.04 .....Trinidad & Tob-St Kitts & Nevis...5-1
13.10.04 .....Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago 3-0
13.10.04 .....St Kitts & N-St Vincent/G'dines ...0-3
13.11.04 .....St Kitts & Nevis-Mexico
17.11.04 .....Mexico-St Kitts & Nevis
17.11.04 .....Trin & Tob-St Vincent/G'dines

Top two from each group advance to 3rd stage

3rd stage

The six qualifiers play in a single group, the top three from which qualify for finals. The fourth-placed team meet the winners of the Asian play-off over two legs for a place in finals

EUROPE

14 finals berths (including hosts Germany, who qualify automatically)

Group 1

Oct 9 - Prague
Czech Republic 1 (Koller pen 35)
Romania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,028. **Ref:** Rosetti (Ita)
Czech Republic: Cech - Jiranek, Ujfalusi, Bolf, Jankulovski, Heinz (Sionko 68), Galasek, Rosicky (Kovac 90), Vachousek, Baros (Jarosik 84), Koller.
Romania: Lobont - Stoican, Barcauan (F Moldovan 46), Iencsi, Rat, F Petre (Cernat 57), Soava, Codrea, Pancu (Dica 75), Marica, Mutu.

Oct 9 - Tampere
Finland 3 (Kuqi 8, 87, Eremenko 28)
Armenia 1 (Shakgeldyan 32)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 7,894. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Finland: A Niemi - Pasanen, Saarinen (Kallio 68), Hyypia, Vayrynen, Nurmela, Kolkka (Johansson 83), Kuivasto (Tainio 46), Riihilahti, Kuqi, Eremenko.
Armenia: Ambartsumyan - K Dokhoyan, Hovsepyan, Vardanyan, R Hachatryan (K Aleksanyan 36), Nazaryan, Mkhitaryan, Shakgeldyan, Movsesyan (Hakopyan 84), Grigoryan (Manucharyan 61), Tadevosyan.

Oct 9 - Skopje
Macedonia 2 (Pandev 45, Stojkov 70)
Holland 2 (Bouma 43, Kuijt 66)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)
Macedonia: Nikoloski - Bozinovski, Sedloski, I Mitreski, Vasovski, Krstev, A Mitreski, Jancevski (Trajanov 72), Sakiri, Pandev (Grozdanovski 88), Stojkov (Bajevski 75).
Holland: Van der Sar - Boulahrouz, De Jong, Cocu (Van der Vaart 60), Bouma, Van Bommel (Landzaat 81), Sneijder, Davids, Castelen, Van Hooijdonk (Makaay 60), Kuijt.

Oct 13 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 1 (Bernaus 60)
Macedonia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 150. **Ref:** Podeschi (SaM)
Andorra: Koldo - Escura, Txema, Fernandez, A Lima, Sonejee, Pujol (Garcia 78), Silva (J Sanchez 85), Sivera, Bernaus, Ruiz Gonzalez (Jonas 90).
Macedonia: Nikoloski - I Mitreski, A Mitreski (Bozinovski 78), Stavrevski, Trajanov (Bajevski 46), Jancevski, Grozdanovski, Stojanovski, Pandev, Stojkov, Sakiri.

Oct 13 - Yerevan
Armenia 0
Czech Republic 3 (Koller 3, 76, Rosicky 30)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)
Armenia: Bete - Melikyan, K Dokhoyan (Artur Mkrtchyan 46), Hovsepyan, Vardanyan, A Petrosyan, Nazaryan, Mkhitaryan, Shakgeldyan (Movsesyan 80), Manucharyan, K Aleksanyan (Sarkisyan 64).
Czech Republic: Cech - Grygera, Galasek (Kovac 55), Bolf, Jankulovski, Ujfalusi, Sionko, Heinz, Rosicky, Vachousek (Jarosik 73), Koller (Lokvenc 83).

Oct 13 - Amsterdam
Holland 3 (Sneijder 38, Van Nistelrooy 40, 62)
Finland 1 (Tainio 13)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 49,000. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
Holland: Van der Sar - De Jong, Heitinga, Cocu, Landzaat, Sneijder (Van Bommel 82), Castelen (Makaay 76), Davids, Van der Vaart (Van Bronckhorst 72), Van Nistelrooy, Kuijt.
Finland: A Niemi - Nurmela, Kuivasto, Hyypia, Pasanen, Tainio, Riihilahti (Johansson 59), Vayrynen (Pohja 84), Kolkka, Eremenko (Saarinen 72), Kuqi.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Finland	5	3	0	2	10	6	9
Holland	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Czech Republic	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Macedonia	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
Andorra	3	1	0	2	2	8	3
Armenia	4	0	0	4	1	11	0

18.08.04 .....Macedonia-Armenia.....3-0
18.08.04 .....Romania-Finland.....2-1
04.09.04 .....Finland-Andorra 3-0
04.09.04 .....Romania-Macedonia 2-1
08.09.04 .....Andorra-Romania 1-5
08.09.04 .....Armenia-Finland.....0-2
08.09.04 .....Holland-Czech Republic 2-0

09.10.04 .....Czech Republic-Romania 1-0
09.10.04 .....Finland-Armenia.....3-1
09.10.04 .....Macedonia-Holland 2-2
13.10.04 .....Andorra-Macedonia 1-0
13.10.04 .....Armenia-Czech Republic.....0-3
13.10.04 .....Holland-Finland 3-1
17.11.04 .....Andorra-Holland
17.11.04 .....Armenia-Romania
17.11.04 .....Macedonia-Czech Republic
09.02.05 .....Macedonia-Andorra
26.03.05 .....Armenia-Andorra
26.03.05 .....Czech Republic-Finland
26.03.05 .....Romania-Holland
30.03.05 .....Andorra-Czech Republic
30.03.05 .....Holland-Armenia
30.03.05 .....Macedonia-Romania
04.06.05 .....Armenia-Macedonia
04.06.05 .....Czech Republic-Andorra
04.06.05 .....Holland-Romania
08.06.05 .....Czech Republic-Macedonia
08.06.05 .....Finland-Holland
08.06.05 .....Romania-Armenia
17.08.05 .....Macedonia-Finland
17.08.05 .....Romania-Andorra
03.09.05 .....Andorra-Finland
03.09.05 .....Armenia-Holland
03.09.05 .....Romania-Czech Republic
07.09.05 .....Czech Republic-Armenia
07.09.05 .....Finland-Macedonia
07.09.05 .....Holland-Andorra
08.10.05 .....Czech Republic-Holland
08.10.05 .....Finland-Romania
12.10.05 .....Andorra-Armenia
12.10.05 .....Finland-Czech Republic
12.10.05 .....Holland-Macedonia

Group 2

Oct 9 - Tirana
Albania 0
Denmark 2 (Jorgensen 52, Tomasson 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Baskakov (Rus)
Albania: Strakosha - Cana, Hasi, K Duro, A Beqiri, Lala, Haxhi (Dragusha 67), Skela, Muka (Bushaj 78), Murati, Tare.
Denmark: Skov-Jensen - Poulsen, Priske, Helveg, N Jensen, Kroldrup, Gravesen, Gronkjaer (Kahlenberg 77), Tomasson, Jorgensen (Kristiansen 82), Pedersen (Rommedahl 46).

Oct 9 - Istanbul
Turkey 4 (Gokdeniz 17, Nihat 50, Fatih Tekke 89, 90)
Kazakhstan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Hrinak (Slk)
Turkey: Rustu - Umit Ozat, Tolga, Servet, Deniz, Gokdeniz (Tuncay 69), Serkan (Hasan Sas 64), Huseyin, Nihat (Altintop 84), Necati, Fatih Tekke.
Kazakhstan: Novikov (Morev 52) - Lyapkin, Familtsev, Avdeyev, Dubinsky, Irismetov, Chichulin (Baltiyev 33), Karpovits, Smakov (Kozulin 59), Nizovtsev, Buleshev.

Oct 9 - Kiev
Ukraine 1 (Shevchenko 49)
Greece 1 (Tsiartas 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Rusol, Yeserskyi, Nesmachnyi, Fedorov, Husiev, Shelaiev (Zakarlyuka 86), Tymoshchuk, Voronin (Bielik 90), Shevchenko, Vorobei (Husin 65).
Greece: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Kapsis, Dellas, Fissas (Tsiartas 70), Basinas (Georgiadis 80), Zagorakis, Giannakopoulos (Haristeas 61), Karagounis, Katsouranis, Vryzas.

Oct 13 - Copenhagen
Denmark 1 (Tomasson pen 26)
Turkey 1 (Nihat 70)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,331. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Denmark: Skov-Jensen - Helveg, Priske, Kroldrup, N Jensen, Poulsen, Gravesen, Perez (Rommedahl 62), Gronkjaer, Jorgensen (Kristiansen 77), Tomasson. *Sent off: Gronkjaer 31min.*
Turkey: Rustu - Umit Ozat, Tolga, Servet (Necati 68), Ibrahim Uzulmez (Tuncay 46), Okan Buruk, Huseyin, Emre Belozoglu, Gokdeniz (Serkan 84), Nihat, Fatih Tekke.

Oct 13 - Almaty
Kazakhstan 0
Albania 1 (Bushaj 60)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
Kazakhstan: Morev - Avdeyev, Smakov (Kamelov 53), Dubinsky, Familtsev, Lyapkin, Baltiyev, Karpovits (Shevchenko 62), Nizovtsev, Urazbakhtin (Buleshev 56), Irismetov.
Albania: Strakosha - A Beqiri, Hasi, Haxhi, Lala, Dragusha (Shkembi 90), Cana, Mukaj (Lici 53), Skela, Bushaj (Rraklli 85), Tare.

Oct 13 - Lviv
Ukraine 2 (Bielik 12, Shevchenko 82)
Georgia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Nesmachnyi, Fedorov, Tymoshchuk, Yezerskyi (Checher 46), Rusol, Husiev, Voronin (Shelaiev 38; Zakarlyuka 64), Bielik, Husin, Shevchenko.
Georgia: Devadze - Mjavanadze (Burduli 46), Khizaneishvili, Salukvadze, Khizanishvili, Tskitishvili, Asatiani, Kobiashvili, Iashvili, Dzhamarauli (Demetradze 85), S Arveladze.

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Turkey	4	1	3	0	6	2	6
Albania	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Denmark	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Georgia	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Greece	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

04.09.04 .....Albania-Greece.....2-1
04.09.04 .....Denmark-Ukraine 1-1
04.09.04 .....Turkey-Georgia.....1-1
08.09.04 .....Georgia-Albania.....2-0
08.09.04 .....Greece-Turkey.....0-0
08.09.04 .....Kazakhstan-Ukraine 1-2
09.10.04 .....Albania-Denmark 0-2
09.10.04 .....Turkey-Kazakhstan 4-0
09.10.04 .....Ukraine-Greece 1-1
13.10.04 .....Denmark-Turkey 1-1
13.10.04 .....Kazakhstan-Albania 0-1
13.10.04 .....Ukraine-Georgia 2-0
17.11.04 .....Georgia-Denmark
17.11.04 .....Greece-Kazakhstan
17.11.04 .....Turkey-Ukraine
09.02.05 .....Albania-Ukraine
09.02.05 .....Greece-Denmark
26.03.05 .....Denmark-Kazakhstan
26.03.05 .....Georgia-Greece
26.03.05 .....Turkey-Albania
30.03.05 .....Georgia-Turkey
30.03.05 .....Greece-Albania
30.03.05 .....Ukraine-Denmark
04.06.05 .....Albania-Georgia
04.06.05 .....Turkey-Greece
04.06.05 .....Ukraine-Kazakhstan
08.06.05 .....Denmark-Albania
08.06.05 .....Greece-Ukraine
08.06.05 .....Kazakhstan-Turkey
17.08.05 .....Kazakhstan-Georgia
03.09.05 .....Albania-Kazakhstan
03.09.05 .....Georgia-Ukraine
03.09.05 .....Turkey-Denmark
07.09.05 .....Denmark-Georgia
07.09.05 .....Kazakhstan-Greece
07.09.05 .....Ukraine-Turkey
08.10.05 .....Denmark-Greece
08.10.05 .....Georgia-Kazakhstan
08.10.05 .....Ukraine-Albania
12.10.05 .....Albania-Turkey
12.10.05 .....Greece-Georgia
12.10.05 .....Kazakhstan-Denmark

Group 3

Oct 9 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 2 (Burgmeier 48, T Beck 76)
Portugal 2 (Pauleta 23, D Hasler og 39)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,548. **Ref:** Panic (Bos)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, Michael Stocklasa, D Hasler, Ritter, Martin Stocklasa, Gerster, F Burgmeier, Rohrer (R Beck 46), T Beck (R Buchel 88), M Frick (D Frick 90).
Portugal: Ricardo - Paulo Ferreira, Jorge Andrade, Ricardo Carvalho, Jorge Ribeiro, Simao (Petit 57), Maniche, Costinha (Tiago 46), Deco, Cristiano Ronaldo (Helder Postiga 62), Pauleta.

Oct 9 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Russia 4 (Sychev 55, 69, 86, Arshavin 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)
Luxembourg: Besic - Peters, Federspiel, Hoffmann, Schauls (Schnell 58), Strasser, Remy, A Leweck, Cardoni (C Leweck 76), Molitor (Mannon 76), Braun.
Russia: Malafeyev - Anyukov, Bugaev, Evseev, Ignashevich, Smertin, Kantonistov (Boyarintsev 46), Gusev (Aldonin 75), Arshavin, Bulykin (Kirichenko 67), Sychev.

Oct 9 - Bratislava
Slovakia 4 (S Nemeth 46, Reiter 50, Karhan 55, 87)
Latvia 1 (Verpakovskis 3)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,025. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
Slovakia: Contofalsky - Zabavnik, Kratochvil (Reiter 46), Varga, Gresko, Mintal (Janocko 46), Karhan, Hanek, Michalik (Cech 75), Vittek, S Nemeth.
Latvia: Kolinko - Zirnis, Isakovs, Smirnovs, Korablovs, Bleidelis, Astafjevs (Kolesnicenko 90), Lobanovs, Laizans, Rimkus (Miholaps 76), Verpakovskis.

Oct 13 - Riga
Latvia 2 (Astafjevs 65, Laizans 82)
Estonia 2 (Oper 72, Teever 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,200. **Ref:** Meyer (Ger)
Latvia: Kolinko - Stepanovs (Rubins 46), Astafjevs, Zemlinskis, Laizans, Zirnis, Isakovs, Bleidelis (Rimkus 81), Lobanovs, Verpakovskis, Prohorenkovs.
Estonia: Poom - Allas, Jaager, Piiroja, U Rooba, Rahn, Teever (Leetma 85), Lindpere, Viikmae, Oper, Terehhov (Kruglov 85).

Oct 13 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Liechtenstein 4 (Martin Stocklasa 41, F Burgmeier 44, 84, M Frick pen 57)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Jara (Cze)
Luxembourg: Besic - Federspiel, Hoffman, Strasser, Hellenbrand, C Leweck, Molitor (Collette 46), Cardoni, Remy, A Leweck (Di Domenico 72), Braun.
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, D Hasler, Ritter, Michael Stocklasa, R Beck (D'Elia 57), Martin Stocklasa, Gerster, F Burgmeier, T Beck (R Buchel 87), M Frick (Rohrer 81).

Oct 13 - Lisbon
Portugal 7 (Pauleta 25, Cristiano Ronaldo 38, 69, Deco 44, Simao 82, Petit 89, 90)
Russia 1 (Arshavin 79)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 27,258. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Portugal: Ricardo - Paulo Ferreira, Jorge Andrade, Ricardo Carvalho, Miguel, Costinha, Maniche (Petit 73), Cristiano Ronaldo (Boa Morte 85), Deco, Simao, Pauleta (Nuno Gomes 67).
Russia: Malafeyev - Anyukov, Bugaev, Evseev, Ignashevich, Sennikov (Gusev 46), Aldonin (Boyarintsev 71), Smertin, Arshavin, Bulykin, Sychev (Kirichenko 46).

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	4	3	1	0	15	3	10
Slovakia	4	3	1	0	15	3	10
Estonia	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Russia	3	1	1	1	6	8	4
Latvia	4	1	1	2	7	11	4
Liechtenstein	4	1	1	2	7	11	4
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	4	19	0

18.08.04 .....Liechtenstein-Estonia 1-2
18.08.04 .....Slovakia-Luxembourg 3-1
04.09.04 .....Estonia-Luxembourg 4-0
04.09.04 .....Latvia-Portugal.....0-2
04.09.04 .....Russia-Slovakia 1-1
08.09.04 .....Luxembourg-Latvia 3-4
08.09.04 .....Portugal-Estonia.....4-0
08.09.04 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein.....7-0
09.10.04 .....Liechtenstein-Portugal.....2-2
09.10.04 .....Luxembourg-Russia 0-4
09.10.04 .....Slovakia-Latvia.....4-1
13.10.04 .....Latvia-Estonia 2-2
13.10.04 .....Luxembourg-Liechtenstein 0-4
13.10.04 .....Portugal-Russia.....7-1
17.11.04 .....Liechtenstein-Latvia
17.11.04 .....Luxembourg-Portugal
17.11.04 .....Russia-Estonia
26.03.05 .....Estonia-Slovakia
26.03.05 .....Liechtenstein-Russia
30.03.05 .....Estonia-Russia
30.03.05 .....Latvia-Luxembourg
30.03.05 .....Slovakia-Portugal
04.06.05 .....Estonia-Liechtenstein
04.06.05 .....Portugal-Slovakia
04.06.05 .....Russia-Latvia
08.06.05 .....Estonia-Portugal
08.06.05 .....Latvia-Liechtenstein
08.06.05 .....Luxembourg-Slovakia
17.08.05 .....Latvia-Russia
17.08.05 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia
03.09.05 .....Estonia-Latvia
03.09.05 .....Portugal-Luxembourg
03.09.05 .....Russia-Liechtenstein
07.09.05 .....Latvia-Slovakia
07.09.05 .....Liechtenstein-Luxembourg
07.09.05 .....Russia-Portugal
08.10.05 .....Portugal-Liechtenstein
08.10.05 .....Russia-Luxembourg
08.10.05 .....Slovakia-Estonia
12.10.05 .....Luxembourg-Estonia
12.10.05 .....Portugal-Latvia
12.10.05 .....Slovakia-Russia

Group 4

Oct 9 - Nicosia
Cyprus 2 (M Constantinou 14, Thorsteinsson og 81)
Faroe Islands 2 (Jorgensen 21, Rogvi Jacobsen 43)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Gadiyev (Aze)
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - N Nicolaou, Okkarides (Kaiafas 61), Makrides (Neophytou 68), Okkas, Charalambidis, M Constantinou, Charalambous, S Georgiou, Elia, Krassas (Satsias 46).
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Olsen, Thorsteinsson, Jon R Jacobsen (John Petersen 76), Rogvi Jacobsen, Benjaminsen, J Johnsson, a Borg, Frederiksberg (av Flotum 69), Jorgensen (Atli Danielsen 46), Johannessen.

Oct 9 - Saint-Denis
France 0
Rep Ireland 0
Att: 78,863. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
France: Barthez - Gallas, Silvestre, Squillaci, Givet, Pires, Dacourt (Diarra 64), Mavuba, Henry, Wiltord, Cisse (Govou 82).
Rep Ireland: Given - Carr, O'Brien, Cunningham, Finnan, O'Shea, Roy Keane, Duff, Kilbane, Robbie Keane, Morrison (A Reid 41).

Oct 9 - Tel Aviv
Israel 2 (Benayoun 9, 48)
Switzerland 2 (Frei 26, Vonlanthen 34)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 37,981. **Ref:** Shield (Aus)
Israel: Davidovich - Benado, Ben-Haim, Gershon (Saban 78), Gazal (Nimni 46), Badir, Tal, Keisi, Afek, Benayoun, Balili (Golan 58).
Switzerland: Zuberbuhler - Haas, M Yakin (Henchoz 62), Muller, Magnin, Cabanas, Vogel, Barnetta (Gygax 33), H Yakin (Lonfat 80), Frei, Vonlanthen.

Oct 13 - Nicosia
Cyprus 0
France 2 (Wiltord 38, Henry 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - Okkarides, N Nicolaou (Lambrou 76), Kakoyiannis, Elia, S Georgiou (Yiasoumi 82), Satsias, Charalambidis (Makrides 56), Charalambous, M Constantinou, Okkas.
France: Barthez - Gallas, Squillaci, Givet, Silvestre, Wiltord, Vieira, Dacourt (Diarra 90), Pires (Moreira 46), Luyindula (Evra 66), Henry.

Oct 13 - Dublin
Rep Ireland 2 (Robbie Keane pen 14, 33)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Lajuks (Lat)
Rep Ireland: Given - Carr, Cunningham, O'Brien, O'Shea (Miller 56), Finnan, Roy Keane, Kilbane, A Reid (Doherty 76), Robbie Keane, Duff.
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Thorsteinsson, Johannesen, Jon R Jacobsen, Olsen, a Borg (Atli Danielsen 85), J Johnsson, Benjaminsen, Rogvi Jacobsen (Lakjuni 57), Frederiksberg (av Flotum 82), John Petersen.

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep Ireland	4	2	2	0	6	1	8
France	4	2	2	0	4	0	8
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	9	3	5
Israel	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Cyprus	4	0	1	3	3	9	1
Faroe Islands	4	0	1	3	2	12	1

04.09.04 .....France-Israel.....0-0
04.09.04 .....Rep Ireland-Cyprus 3-0
04.09.04 .....Switzerland-Faroe Islands 6-0
08.09.04 .....Faroe Islands-France 0-2
08.09.04 .....Israel-Cyprus.....2-1
08.09.04 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland.....1-1
09.10.04 .....Cyprus-Faroe Islands 2-2
09.10.04 .....France-Rep Ireland 0-0
09.10.04 .....Israel-Switzerland.....2-2
13.10.04 .....Cyprus-France.....0-2
13.10.04 .....Rep Ireland-Faroe Islands 2-0
17.11.04 .....Cyprus-Israel
26.03.05 .....Israel-Rep Ireland
26.03.05 .....France-Switzerland
30.03.05 .....Israel-France
30.03.05 .....Switzerland-Cyprus
04.06.05 .....Faroe Islands-Switzerland
04.06.05 .....Rep Ireland-Israel
08.06.05 .....Faroe Islands-Rep Ireland

17.08.05 .....Faroe Islands-Cyprus
03.09.05 .....France-Faroe Islands
03.09.05 .....Switzerland-Israel
07.09.05 .....Cyprus-Switzerland
07.09.05 .....Faroe Islands-Israel
07.09.05 .....Rep Ireland-France
08.10.05 .....Cyprus-Rep Ireland
08.10.05 .....Switzerland-France
08.10.05 .....Israel-Faroe Islands
12.10.05 .....France-Cyprus
12.10.05 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland

Group 5

Oct 9 - Minsk
Belarus 4 (Omelyanchuk 45, Kutuzov 65, Bulyga 75, Romaschenko 90)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Dereli (Tur)
Belarus: Khomutovsky - Kulchy (Kovba 79), Yaskovich, Omelyanchuk, Shtanyuk, Gurenko, Lavrik, Bialkevich (Koval 83), Romaschenko, Korytko, Kutuzov (Bulyga 66).
Moldova: Hmaruc - Savinov, Lascencov, Olexici, Catinsus, Barisev (Pogreban 79), Covaliciuc (Epureanu 84), Ivanov, Rogaciov, Bursuc, Miterev (Golban 76).

Oct 9 - Glasgow
Scotland 0
Norway 1 (Iversen pen 54)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 48,882. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)
Scotland: Gordon - G Caldwell, Anderson, Webster, Naysmith, Holt (Thompson 80), Fletcher, Ferguson, Hughes (Pearson 63), Dickov (K Miller 75), McFadden. *Sent off: McFadden 54min.*
Norway: Myhre - Bergdolmo, Hagen, Lundekvam, Riise, Solli, Svindal Larsen, Sorensen (Andresen 74), Iversen (F Johnsen 89), Hoseth (Gamst Pedersen 58), Carew.

Oct 9 - Celje
Slovenia 1 (Cesar 82)
Italy 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Slovenia: B Mavric - Pokorn, M Mavric, Mitrakovic (Cesar 76), Karic (Dedic 70), Sukalo, Komac, N Ceh (Lazic 88), Seslar, Acimovic, Siljak.
Italy: Buffon - Bonera, Cannavaro, Nesta, Zambrotta, Gattuso, De Rossi, Camoranesi (Di Vaio 83), Totti, Esposito (Fiore 69), Gilardino (Toni 69).

Oct 13 - Parma
Italy 4 (Totti pen 27, 74, De Rossi 33, Gilardino 86)
Belarus 3 (Romaschenko 52, 89, Bulyga 77)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,510. **Ref:** Megia Davila (Spa)
Italy: Buffon - Oddo (Cannavaro 69), Nesta, Materazzi, Pancaro, Diana (Perrotta 65), Gattuso, De Rossi (Blasi 75), Zambrotta, Totti, Gilardino.
Belarus: Khomutovsky - Tarlovsky, Yaskovich, Shtanyuk, Gurenko, Lavrik (Kovba 76), Korytko (Bulyga 36), Bialkevich, Kulchy (Koval 84), Romaschenko, Kutuzov. *Sent off: Yaskovich 90.*

Oct 13 - Chisinau
Moldova 1 (Dadu 28)
Scotland 1 (Thompson 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Moldova: Hmaruc - Lascencov, Catinsus, Priganiuc, Savinov, Olexici (Cebotari 36), Ivanov, Bursuc, Covaliciuc, Rogaciov, Dadu.
Scotland: Gordon - G Caldwell, S Caldwell, Webster, Naysmith (Murray 46), Holt, Fletcher (K Miller 65), Ferguson, Cameron, Thompson (McCulloch 85), Crawford.

Oct 13 - Oslo
Norway 3 (Carew 6, Gamst Pedersen 60, Odegaard 89)
Slovenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,907. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Norway: Myhre - Bergdolmo, Lundekvam, Hagen, Riise, Svindal Larsen, Solli, Andresen, Gamst Pedersen (Odegaard 80), Iversen (F Johnsen 88), Carew (Rushfeldt 76).
Slovenia: B Mavric - Pokorn, M Mavric, Cesar, Mitrakovic, Sukalo, Seslar (Komac 66), N Ceh, Acimovic, Siljak, Lavric (Dedic 77).

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	4	3	0	1	7	5	9
Norway	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Slovenia	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Belarus	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Scotland	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Moldova	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

04.09.04 .....Italy-Norway.....2-1
04.09.04 .....Slovenia-Moldova.....3-0
08.09.04 .....Moldova-Italy 0-1
08.09.04 .....Norway-Belarus 1-1
08.09.04 .....Scotland-Slovenia 0-0
09.10.04 .....Belarus-Moldova 4-0
09.10.04 .....Scotland-Norway 0-1
09.10.04 .....Slovenia-Italy 1-0
13.10.04 .....Italy-Belarus.....4-3
13.10.04 .....Moldova-Scotland 1-1
13.10.04 .....Norway-Slovenia.....3-0
26.03.05 .....Italy-Scotland
30.03.05 .....Moldova-Norway
30.03.05 .....Slovenia-Belarus
04.06.05 .....Belarus-Slovenia
04.06.05 .....Norway-Italy
04.06.05 .....Scotland-Moldova
08.06.05 .....Belarus-Scotland
03.09.05 .....Moldova-Belarus
03.09.05 .....Scotland-Italy
03.09.05 .....Slovenia-Norway
07.09.05 .....Belarus-Italy
07.09.05 .....Moldova-Slovenia
07.09.05 .....Norway-Scotland
08.10.05 .....Italy-Slovenia
08.10.05 .....Norway-Moldova
08.10.05 .....Scotland-Belarus
12.10.05 .....Belarus-Norway
12.10.05 .....Italy-Moldova
12.10.05 .....Slovenia-Scotland

Group 6

Oct 9 - Vienna
Austria 1 (Schopp 30)
Poland 3 (Kaluzny 10, Krzynowek 79, Frankowski 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 46,100. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Austria: Manninger - Standfest, Stranzl, Martin Hiden, Pogatetz, Schopp (Kollmann 38), Kuhbauer, Aufhauser (Kiesenebner 46), Ivanschitz, Vastic (Mayrleb 80), Haas.
Poland: Dudek - Baszczynski, Hajto, J Bak, Rzasa, Zajac (Kosowski 46), Kaluzny (Radomski 72), Mila, Krzynowek, Zurawski, Rasiak (Frankowski 67). *Sent off: Radomski 88min.*

Oct 9 - Baku
Azerbaijan 0
Northern Ireland 0
Ref: Hanacsek (Hun)
Azerbaijan: Gasanzade - Hajiyev, Sadigov, Amirbekov, Emin Guliev, Shukurov, M Gurbanov (Ponomarev 58), I Mamedov (I Gurbanov 53), K Guliev, Nabiyev, S Aliyev (G Gurbanov 76).
N Ireland: Taylor - Baird (Gillespie 10), A Hughes, Williams, Murdock, Clyde, Whitley, Doherty, Johnson, Quinn (Smith 76), Elliott.

Oct 9 - Manchester
England 2 (Lampard 4, Beckham 76)
Wales 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,224. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
England: Robinson - G Neville, Ferdinand, Campbell, A Cole, Beckham (Hargreaves 85), Butt, Lampard, Rooney (King 87), Owen, Defoe (Smith 59).
Wales: P Jones - Davies, Delaney, Gabbidon, Thatcher, Pembridge (C Robinson 59), Bellamy, Koumas (Earnshaw 73), Speed, Giggs, Hartson.

Oct 13 - Baku
Azerbaijan 0
England 1 (Owen 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Azerbaijan: Gasanzade - Amirbekov, Hajiyev, Sadigov, Emin Guliev (I Gurbanov 74), K Guliev, Shukurov, A Kerimov, Ponomarev, Nabiyev (Abdullayev 80), S Aliyev (G Gurbanov 59).
England: Robinson - G Neville, Ferdinand, Campbell, A Cole, Jenas (Wright-Phillips 72), Butt, Lampard, Rooney (J Cole 85), Owen, Defoe (Smith 55).

Oct 13 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 3 (Healy 35, Murdock 60, Elliott 90)
Austria 3 (Schopp 14, 72, Mayrleb 61)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 11,830. **Ref:** Shield (Aus)
N Ireland: Carroll - A Hughes, Murdock (Elliott 78), McCartney, Gillespie, Whitley (McVeigh 89), Williams, Doherty (Jones 86), Johnson, Healy, Quinn.
Austria: Manninger - Ibertsberger, Feldhofer, Martin Hiden, Pogatetz, Schopp (Sick 83), Kiesenebner, Kuhbauer, Kirchler (Ivanschitz 65), Mayrleb (Kollmann 81), Vastic.

Oct 13 - Cardiff
Wales 2 (Earnshaw 56, Hartson 90)
Poland 3 (Frankowski 72, Zurawski 81, Krzynowek 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 56,685. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Wales: P Jones - Delaney, Collins, Gabbidon, Thatcher, Davies, Savage, Speed (Hartson 79), Koumas (Parry 86), Bellamy, Earnshaw.
Poland: Dudek - Baszczynski, Hajto, J Bak (Klos 46), Rzasa, Kosowski, Kaluzny (Mila 71), Szymkowiak, Krzynowek, Zurawski, Wlodarczyk (Frankowski 60).

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Poland	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Austria	4	1	2	1	8	8	5
N Ireland	4	0	3	1	5	8	3
Wales	4	0	2	2	5	8	2
Azerbaijan	4	0	2	2	1	4	2

04.09.04 .....Austria-England.....2-2
04.09.04 .....Azerbaijan-Wales 1-1
04.09.04 .....Northern Ireland-Poland.....0-3
08.09.04 .....Austria-Azerbaijan.....2-0
08.09.04 .....Poland-England.....1-2
08.09.04 .....Wales-Northern Ireland.....2-2
09.10.04 .....Austria-Poland.....1-3
09.10.04 .....Azerbaijan-Northern Ireland.....0-0
09.10.04 .....England-Wales 2-0
13.10.04 .....Azerbaijan-England.....0-1
13.10.04 .....Northern Ireland-Austria 3-3
13.10.04 .....Wales-Poland 2-3
26.03.05 .....England-Northern Ireland
26.03.05 .....Poland-Azerbaijan
26.03.05 .....Wales-Austria
30.03.05 .....Austria-Wales
30.03.05 .....England-Azerbaijan
30.03.05 .....Poland-Northern Ireland
04.06.05 .....Azerbaijan-Poland
03.09.05 .....Northern Ireland-Azerbaijan
03.09.05 .....Poland-Austria
03.09.05 .....Wales-England
07.09.05 .....Azerbaijan-Austria
07.09.05 .....Northern Ireland-England
07.09.05 .....Poland-Wales
08.10.05 .....England-Austria
08.10.05 .....Northern Ireland-Wales
12.10.05 .....Austria-Northern Ireland
12.10.05 .....England-Poland
12.10.05 .....Wales-Azerbaijan

Group 7

Oct 9 - Sarajevo
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
Serbia & Montenegro 0
Att: 22,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Tolja - Spahic, Barbarez, Bajic (Hrgovic 63), Papac (Crnogorac 79), Beslija (Ricardo Baiano 80), Grlic, Blatnjak, Misimovic, Baljic, Bolic.
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - N Djordjevic (M Markovic 58), Gavrancic, Krstajic, Dragutinovic, Koroman (N Brnovic 90), Duljaj, D Stankovic, Vukic, Ljubosa, Milosevic (Pantelic 78).

Oct 9 - Santander
Spain 2 (Luque 59, Raul 63)
Belgium 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Spain: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Marchena, Puyol, Del Horno, Joaquin, Albelda (Xabi Alonso 58), Xavi (Baraja 73), Reyes, Raul, Fernando Torres (Luque 53).
Belgium: Peersman - Deflandre, Kompany, Van Buyten, Deschacht, Buffel (Dufer 79), Clement, Bisconti (Doll 60), Goor, M Mpenza (Huysegems 73), Sonck. *Sent off: Deflandre 28min, Goor 66min.*

Oct 13 - Vilnius
Lithuania 0
Spain 0
Att: 4,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Lithuania: Karcemarskas - Stankevicius, Barasa, Skerla, Dziaukstas, Vencevicius, E Cesnauskis, Skarbalius, Danilevicius (Radzinevicius 81), Gedgaudas (Mikoliunas 74), Jankauskas.
Spain: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Marchena, Puyol, Capdevila (Fernando Torres 78), Albelda, Baraja (Reyes 64), Victor (Tamudo 52), Xavi, Luque, Raul.

Oct 13 - Belgrade
Serbia & Montenegro 5 (Milosevic 35, D Stankovic 45, 50, Koroman 53, Vukic 69)
San Marino 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Isaksen (Far)
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - M Markovic, Gavrancic, Krstajic, Dragutinovic (Vitakic 61), Koroman, Duljaj (N Brnovic 46), D Stankovic, Vukic, Ljuboja (Pantelic 72), Milosevic.
San Marino: F Gasperoni - Della Valle, Albani, S Bacciocchi, Michele Marani, C Valentini, Vannucci, Domeniconi (L Moretti 90), M Moretti (B Gasperoni 64), A Gasperoni, Ciacci (De Luigi 78).

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia & M'negro	3	2	1	0	8	0	7
Lithuania	3	1	2	0	5	1	5
Spain	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Bosnia-Herz	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Belgium	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
San Marino	3	0	0	3	0	12	0

04.09.04 .....Belgium-Lithuania.....1-1
04.09.04 .....San Marino-Serbia & M'negro.....0-3
08.09.04 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain.....1-1
08.09.04 .....Lithuania-San Marino.....4-0
09.10.04 .....Bosnia-Herz.-Serbia & M'negro ..0-0
09.10.04 .....Spain-Belgium.....2-0
13.10.04 .....Lithuania-Spain.....0-0
13.10.04 .....Serbia & M'negro-San Marino.....5-0
17.11.04 .....Belgium-Serbia & M'negro
17.11.04 .....San Marino-Lithuania
09.02.05 .....Spain-San Marino
26.03.05 .....Belgium-Bosnia-Herzegovina
30.03.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania
30.03.05 .....San Marino-Belgium
30.03.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Spain
04.06.05 .....San Marino-Bosnia-Herzegovina
04.06.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Belgium
04.06.05 .....Spain-Lithuania
08.06.05 .....Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina
03.09.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Belgium
03.09.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Lithuania
07.09.05 .....Belgium-San Marino
07.09.05 .....Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina
07.09.05 .....Spain-Serbia & M'negro
08.10.05 .....Belgium-Spain
08.10.05 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-San Marino
08.10.05 .....Lithuania-Serbia & M'negro
12.10.05 .....Lithuania-Belgium
12.10.05 .....San Marino-Spain
12.10.05 .....Serbia & M'negro-Bosnia-Herz.

Group 8

Oct 9 - Zagreb
Croatia 2 (Srna 15, pen 31)
Bulgaria 2 (M Petrov 78, Berbatov 85)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Croatia: Butina - R Kovac (Banovic 77), Tokic, Simunic, Srna, N Kovac, Vranjes, Babic, Kranjcar (Balaban 69), Prso, Klasnic (J Leko 55).
Bulgaria: Ivankov - Markov, Stojanov, I Petkov, Georgiev (Paskov 90), Stilian Petrov, Yankov, Kishishev (Yanev 55), M Petrov, Bojinov (Manchev 55), Berbatov.

Oct 9 - Valletta
Malta 0
Iceland 0
Att: 6,000. **Ref:** Corpodean (Rom)
Malta: Haber - Ciantar, Azzopardi, Briffa, Said, Dimech, Agius (Mallia 66), Giglio, Michael Mifsud, Woods (Galea 78), Mattocks.
Iceland: Arason - O O Bjarnasson, K Sigurdsson, B Gunnarsson (Gretarsson 78), I Sigurdsson (H Sigurdsson 59), Vidarsson, Hreidarsson, Einarsson, E Gudjohnsen, T Gudjonsson (V Gunnarsson 69), H Helguson.

Oct 9 - Stockholm
Sweden 3 (Ljungberg 26, Larsson 50, A Svensson 67)
Hungary 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 32,288. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)
Sweden: Isaksson - Ostlund, Mellberg, Mjallby (M Nilsson 46), Lucic, Linderoth, Wilhelmsson (Alexandersson 74), A Svensson (Kallstrom 80), Ljungberg, Larsson, Allback.
Hungary: Kiraly - Gyepes, Stark, A Toth, Bodnar (Feher 80), Molnar (Hajnal 55), Dardai, Bodor, Torghelle (P Kovacs 68), Gera, Szabics.

Oct 13 - Sofia
Bulgaria 4 (Berbatov 43, 56, Yanev 47, Yankov 87)
Malta 1 (Michael Mifsud 12)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,746. **Ref:** Richards (Wal)
Bulgaria: Ivankov - I Petkov, Yanev (Kirilov 72), Yankov, Georgiev, Stilian Petrov, Stoyanov, M Petrov, Berbatov, Manchev (Gargorov 65), Bojinov (Sakaliev 68).

Malta: Haber - Ciantar, Azzopardi, Briffa (Antoine Zahra 46), Said, Dimech, Agius, Giglio, Woods (Pullicino 75), Mattocks (Cohen 81), Michael Mifsud.

Oct 13 - Reykjavik
Iceland 1 (E Gudjohnsen 65)
Sweden 4 (Larsson 23, 38, Allback 26, Wilhelmsson 44)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 7,037. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Iceland: Arason - K O Sigurdsson, O O Bjarnason (T Gudjonsson 57), Marteinsson, Hreidarsson, I Sigurdsson (H Jonsson 25), J K Gudjonsson, B Gunnarsson, Einarsson, H Helguson (H Sigurdsson 80), E Gudjohnsen.
Sweden: Isaksson (Hedman 30) - Ostlund, Mellberg, Lucic, M Nilsson, Wilhelmsson, Linderoth, A Svensson, Ljungberg (Alexandersson 57), Larsson (Ibrahimovic 51), Allback.

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	4	3	0	1	14	2	9
Bulgaria	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
Croatia	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Hungary	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Iceland	4	0	1	3	4	10	1
Malta	3	0	1	2	1	11	1

04.09.04 .....Croatia-Hungary 3-0
04.09.04 .....Iceland-Bulgaria 1-3
04.09.04 .....Malta-Sweden 0-7
08.09.04 .....Hungary-Iceland 3-2
08.09.04 .....Sweden-Croatia 0-1
09.10.04 .....Croatia-Bulgaria 2-2
09.10.04 .....Malta-Iceland 0-0
09.10.04 .....Sweden-Hungary 3-0
13.10.04 .....Bulgaria-Malta 4-1
13.10.04 .....Iceland-Sweden 1-4
17.11.04 .....Malta-Hungary
26.03.05 .....Bulgaria-Sweden
26.03.05 .....Croatia-Iceland
30.03.05 .....Croatia-Malta
30.03.05 .....Hungary-Bulgaria
04.06.05 .....Bulgaria-Croatia
04.06.05 .....Iceland-Hungary
04.06.05 .....Sweden-Malta
08.06.05 .....Iceland-Malta
03.09.05 .....Hungary-Malta
03.09.05 .....Iceland-Croatia
03.09.05 .....Sweden-Bulgaria
07.09.05 .....Bulgaria-Iceland
07.09.05 .....Hungary-Sweden
07.09.05 .....Malta-Croatia
08.10.05 .....Bulgaria-Hungary
08.10.05 .....Croatia-Sweden
12.10.05 .....Hungary-Croatia
12.10.05 .....Malta-Bulgaria
12.10.05 .....Sweden-Iceland

Group winners and the two best runners-up qualify for finals. The other six runners-up are paired in three two-leg play-off matches, the winners of which also qualify for finals

OCEANIA

0.5 finals berths

3rd stage

Australia and the Solomon Islands meet in a two-leg play-off in September 2005, the winners of which meet the fifth-placed South American team over two legs for a place in finals

SOUTH AMERICA

4.5 finals berths

Oct 9 - Buenos Aires
Argentina 4 (L Gonzalez 6, Figueroa 32, 54, Zanetti 44)
Uruguay 2 (C Rodriguez 63, Chevanton pen 86)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Souza (Bra)
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Coloccini, Samuel, Heinze, Zanetti, L Gonzalez (M Rodriguez 68), Cambiasso, Riquelme, Sorin, Saviola, Figueroa (Insua 80).
Uruguay: Viera - Bizera (Lago 57), Lembo, Dario Rodriguez, Diogo, Sosa, Perez (Garcia 55), C Rodriguez, Delgado, Chevanton, D Silva (Forlan 55).

Oct 9 - La Paz
Bolivia 1 (Botero 56)
Peru 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,729. **Ref:** Reinoso (Ecu)
Bolivia: L Fernandez - Arana, O Sanchez, Raldes, Gatty Ribeiro, R Garcia, Cristaldo, E Sanchez (Tufino 85), Colque, Botero, L Gutierrez (Galindo 90). *Sent off: Gatty Ribeiro 82min.*
Peru: Ibanez - Rodriguez, Galliquio (La Rosa 71), Acasiete, Salas, Jorge Soto, Jayo, J Garcia (Palacios 56), Ciurlizza (Carty 62), Guerrero, Farfan.

Oct 9 - Barranquilla
Colombia 1 (Grisales 17)
Paraguay 1 (Torres 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)
Colombia: Calero - Perea, I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya, Diaz (Rodriguez 81), J Restrepo, Oviedo, Grisales (Moreno 67), Pacheco, Angel.
Paraguay: Villar - Caniza, J C Caceres, Manzur, Da Silva, Ortiz (Gavilan 46), Enciso, Paredes, Torres (Monges 78), Bareiro (Cuevas 59), Cardozo.

Oct 9 - Maracaibo
Venezuela 2 (Moran 79, 90)
Brazil 5 (Kaka 5, 34, Ronaldo 48, 50, Adriano 75)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 26,133. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)
Venezuela: Angelucci - Vallenilla, Rey, Cichero, Rojas, Hernandez (Vielma 55), L Vera (C Gonzalez 68), Jimenez, Arango, Margiotta (H Gonzalez 46), Moran.
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Juan, Roque Junior, Roberto Carlos, Renato, Ze Roberto, Juninho Pernambucano (Edu 62), Ronaldinho, Kaka (Adriano 68), Ronaldo (Alex 72).

Oct 10 - Quito
Ecuador 2 (Kaviedes 49, Mendez 64)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,956. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Ecuador: Villafuerte - De la Cruz, I Hurtado, G Espinoza, Guerron, E Tenorio, M Ayovi, W Ayovi (Salas 46), Mendez, Ordonez (Ambrossi 61), Kaviedes (Fernandez 89).
Chile: N Tapia - R Rojas, Fuentes, Olarra, Contreras, Martel (Beausejour 46), J L Gonzalez, Melendez, Valenzuela (Mirosevic 58), Salas, Galaz (Quinteros 78).

Oct 12 - La Paz
Bolivia 0
Uruguay 0
Att: 24,349. **Ref:** Rezende (Bra)
Bolivia: L Fernandez - Carballo (Colque 65), Arana, Raldes, O Sanchez, R Garcia (Cabrera 46), Cristaldo, E Sanchez, Alvarez (Galindo 80), L Gutierrez, Botero.
Uruguay: Viera - Diogo, Lago, Dario Rodriguez, G Rodriguez, Varela, Pouso, Garcia, Regueiro (Parodi 73), R Morales (Chevanton 78), Sanchez (Sosa 76). *Sent off: Pouso 73min.*

Oct 13 - Maceio
Brazil 0
Colombia 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Juan, Roque Junior, Roberto Carlos, Renato, Magrao (Elano 59), Ze Roberto (Edu 85), Alex (Adriano 59), Ronaldinho, Ronaldo.
Colombia: Calero - Perea, I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya, Diaz, J Restrepo, Oviedo (Moreno 87), Pacheco (Viveros 78), Grisales (Leal 87), Angel.

Oct 13 - Santiago
Chile 0
Argentina 0
Att: 57,671. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Chile: N Tapia - R Rojas (Olara 46), L Fuentes, J Vargas, Contreras, Alvarez, Melendez (Mirosevic 60), Valenzuela, Valdivia (Quinteros 72), Salas, Navia.
Argentina: Abbondanzieri - Coloccini, Samuel, Heinze, Zanetti, Cambiasso, Sorin, L Gonzalez (Mascherano 46), Riquelme, Saviola (D'Alessandro 76), Figueroa (Tevez 63).

Oct 13 - Asuncion
Paraguay 1 (Paredes 13)
Peru 1 (Solano pen 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Paraguay: Villar - Caniza, J C Caceres, Manzur, Da Silva, Enciso, Paredes, Gavilan (Bareiro 83), Torres (Cuevas 53), Haedo, Cardozo (Monges 73).
Peru: Ibanez - Galliquio (Ciurlizza 46), Rebosio, Acasiete, Vargas, Solano (Cominges 86), Jayo, Palacios, Jorge Soto, Mendoza (Guerrero 67), Farfan.

Oct 14 - San Cristobal
Venezuela 3 (Urdaneta pen 21, Moran 73, 81)
Ecuador 1 (M Ayovi pen 42)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 13,800. **Ref:** Lecca (Per)
Venezuela: Dudamel - Vallenilla (H Gonzalez 66), Rey, Cichero, Rojas, L Vera, Jimenez (Paez 64), Arango, Urdaneta, Rondon (Garcia 61), Moran.
Ecuador: Villafuerte - Reasco, I Hurtado, G Espinoza, Guerron, E Tenorio, M Ayovi, Ambrossi (Ordonez 75), Mendez, Kaviedes, Salas (Baldeon 72).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	10	5	5	0	19	10	20
Argentina	10	5	4	1	18	9	19
Paraguay	10	4	4	2	12	10	16
Ecuador	10	4	1	5	11	11	13
Venezuela	10	4	1	5	11	14	13
Chile	10	3	4	3	9	9	13
Uruguay	10	3	2	5	15	23	11
Bolivia	10	3	1	6	11	19	10
Colombia	10	2	4	4	11	11	10
Peru	10	2	4	4	11	12	10

06.09.03 .....Argentina-Chile 2-2
06.09.03 .....Ecuador-Venezuela 2-0
06.09.03 .....Peru-Paraguay 4-1
07.09.03 .....Colombia-Brazil 1-2
07.09.03 .....Uruguay-Bolivia 5-0
09.09.03 .....Chile-Peru 2-1
09.09.03 .....Venezuela-Argentina 0-3
10.09.03 .....Bolivia-Colombia 4-0
10.09.03 .....Brazil-Ecuador 1-0
10.09.03 .....Paraguay-Uruguay 4-1
15.11.03 .....Argentina-Bolivia 3-0
15.11.03 .....Colombia-Venezuela 0-1
15.11.03 .....Paraguay-Ecuador 2-1
15.11.03 .....Uruguay-Chile 2-1
16.11.03 .....Peru-Brazil 1-1
18.11.03 .....Chile-Paraguay 0-1
18.11.03 .....Venezuela-Bolivia 2-1
19.11.03 .....Brazil-Uruguay 3-3
19.11.03 .....Colombia-Argentina 1-1
19.11.03 .....Ecuador-Peru 0-0
30.03.04 .....Argentina-Ecuador 1-0
30.03.04 .....Bolivia-Chile 0-2
31.03.04 .....Paraguay-Brazil 0-0
31.03.04 .....Peru-Colombia 0-2
31.03.04 .....Uruguay-Venezuela 0-3
01.06.04 .....Bolivia-Paraguay 2-1
01.06.04 .....Uruguay-Peru 1-3
01.06.04 .....Venezuela-Chile 0-1
02.06.04 .....Brazil-Argentina 3-1
02.06.04 .....Ecuador-Colombia 2-1
05.06.04 .....Ecuador-Bolivia 3-2
06.06.04 .....Argentina-Paraguay 0-0
06.06.04 .....Chile-Brazil 1-1
06.06.04 .....Colombia-Uruguay 5-0
06.06.04 .....Peru-Venezuela 0-0
04.09.04 .....Peru-Argentina 1-3
05.09.04 .....Brazil-Bolivia 3-1
05.09.04 .....Chile-Colombia 0-0
05.09.04 .....Paraguay-Venezuela 1-0
05.09.04 .....Uruguay-Ecuador 1-0
09.10.04 .....Argentina-Uruguay 4-2
09.10.04 .....Bolivia-Peru 1-0
09.10.04 .....Colombia-Paraguay 1-1
09.10.04 .....Venezuela-Brazil 2-5
10.10.04 .....Ecuador-Chile 2-0
12.10.04 .....Bolivia-Uruguay 0-0
13.10.04 .....Brazil-Colombia 0-0
13.10.04 .....Chile-Argentina 0-0
13.10.04 .....Paraguay-Peru 1-1
14.10.04 .....Venezuela-Ecuador 3-1
16.11.04 .....Uruguay-Paraguay
17.11.04 .....Peru-Chile
17.11.04 .....Argentina-Venezuela
17.11.04 .....Colombia-Bolivia
17.11.04 .....Ecuador-Brazil
26/27.03.05 ....Bolivia-Argentina
26/27.03.05 ....Brazil-Peru
26/27.03.05 ....Chile-Uruguay
26/27.03.05 ....Ecuador-Paraguay
26/27.03.05 ....Venezuela-Colombia
29/30.03.05 ....Argentina-Colombia
29/30.03.05 ....Bolivia-Venezuela
29/30.03.05 ....Paraguay-Chile
29/30.03.05 ....Peru-Ecuador
29/30.03.05 ....Uruguay-Brazil
04/05.06.05 ....Brazil-Paraguay
04/05.06.05 ....Chile-Bolivia
04/05.06.05 ....Colombia-Peru
04/05.06.05 ....Ecuador-Argentina
04/05.06.05 ....Venezuela-Uruguay
07/08.06.05 ....Argentina-Brazil
07/08.06.05 ....Chile-Venezuela
07/08.06.05 ....Colombia-Ecuador
07/08.06.05 ....Paraguay-Bolivia
07/08.06.05 ....Peru-Uruguay
03/04.09.05 ....Bolivia-Ecuador
03/04.09.05 ....Brazil-Chile
03/04.09.05 ....Paraguay-Argentina
03/04.09.05 ....Uruguay-Colombia
03/04.09.05 ....Venezuela-Peru
08/09.10.05 ....Argentina-Peru
08/09.10.05 ....Bolivia-Brazil
08/09.10.05 ....Colombia-Chile
08/09.10.05 ....Ecuador-Uruguay
08/09.10.05 ....Venezuela-Paraguay
11/12.10.05 ....Brazil-Venezuela
11/12.10.05 ....Chile-Ecuador
11/12.10.05 ....Paraguay-Colombia
11/12.10.05 ....Peru-Bolivia
11/12.10.05 ....Uruguay-Argentina

Top four qualify for finals; fifth-placed side enter a play-off against Oceania section winners for a place in finals

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

October 19

Liverpool (Eng) 0
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 0
Att: 40,236. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Liverpool: Kirkland - Josemi, Carragher, Hyypia, Traore, Luis Garcia (Sinama-Pongolle 85), Xabi Alonso, Hamann, Riise (Kewell 66), Cisse (Finnan 77), Baros.
Deportivo: Molina - Manuel Pablo, Cesar, Jorge Andrade, Capdevila, Duscher, Mauro Silva (Scaloni 59), Victor, Valeron (Fran 87), Luque, Pandiani (Romero 82).

Monaco (Fra) 2 (Saviola 3, Chevanton 10)
Olympiakos (Gre) 1 (Okkas 60)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,624. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Monaco: Roma - Maicon, Squillaci, Rodriguez, Evra, Zikos, Bernardi (Farnerud 79), Kallon, Saviola (Plasil 74), Adebayor, Chevanton (Perez 53).
Olympiakos: Nikopolidis - Mavrogenidis, Anatolakis, Schurrer, Venetidis, Kafes (Castillo 77), Stoltidis, Georgatos (Maric 46), Giovanni (Georgiadis 58), Rivaldo, Okkas.

November 3

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Liverpool 1 (Jorge Andrade og 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Deportivo: Molina - Hector (Scaloni 24), Cesar (Pablo Amo 46), Jorge Andrade, Romero, Duscher, Sergio, Victor, Valeron, Luque, Pandiani (Diego Tristan 60).
Liverpool: Kirkland - Josemi, Carragher, Hyypia, Traore, Luis Garcia (Xabi Alonso 90), Hamann, Biscan, Riise, Kewell (Finnan 58), Baros (Sinama-Pongolle 85).

Olympiakos 1 (Schurrer 84)
Monaco 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Olympiakos: Nikopolidis - Mavrogenidis (Georgatos 70), Anatolakis, Schurrer, Pantos, Kafes, Stoltidis, Rivaldo, Giovanni (Maric 65), Djordjevic (Castillo 65), Okkas.
Monaco: Roma - Givet, Squillaci, Rodriguez, Evra, Plasil, Zikos, Bernardi (Perez 81), Kallon (Farnerud 61), Saviola, Adebayor (Chevanton 72).

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Liverpool	4	2	1	1	3	1	7
Monaco	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Dep La Coruna	4	0	2	2	0	3	2

Tue, November 23
Monaco v Liverpool
Olympiakos v Deportivo

Wed, December 8
Deportivo v Monaco
Liverpool v Olympiakos

Group B

October 19

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 3 (Ponte 48, Krzynowek 59, Franca 90)
Roma (Ita) 1 (Totti 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Leverkusen: Butt - Juan, Nowotny, Roque Junior, Placente, Schneider, Ramelow (Franca 46), Krzynowek, Ponte (Babic 90), Jones (Freier 67), Berbatov.
Roma: Zotti - Panucci, Scurto, Ferrari, Cufre, Mancini (Sartor 67), Perrotta (Hossam 73), De Rossi, Totti, Cassano, Montella (Aquilani 50). *Sent off: Panucci 61min, De Rossi 87min.*

Real Madrid (Spa) 1 (Owen 34)
Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 68,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Ivan Helguera, Pavon, Roberto Carlos, Guti, Figo (Solari 29), Zidane, Raul, Owen (Celades 65), Ronaldo (Morientes 81).
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Ghioane (Peev 87), Sablic, Gavrancic, El-Kaddouri, Rodolfo, Yussuf, Husiev (Cernat 64), Diogo Rincon (Bialkevich 75), Kleber, Shatskikh.

November 3

Kyiv Dynamo 2 (Yussuf 13, Verpakovskis 23)
Real Madrid 2 (Raul 37, Figo pen 44)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 78,000. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Ghioane, Sablic, Gavrancic, Rodolfo, El-Kaddouri (Nesmachnyi 65), Husiev (Leko 85), Yussuf, Rincon, Verpakovskis (Cernat 75), Kleber.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Ivan Helguera, Pavon, Roberto Carlos, Guti, Figo (Solari 90), Zidane, Raul, Owen (Celades 59), Ronaldo (Morientes 86).

Roma 1 (Montella 90)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Berbatov 82)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Match played behind closed doors
Roma: Zotti - Sartor (Chivu 63), Mexes, Dellas, Cufre, Mancini, De Martino, D'Agostino (Hossam 63), Aquilani, Totti, Montella (Corvia 90).
Leverkusen: Butt - Balitsch, Juan (Nowotny 49), Roque Junior, Placente, Ramelow, Babic, Schneider (Freier 86), Ponte (Callsen-Bracker 90), Krzynowek, Berbatov.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyiv Dynamo	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Real Madrid	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
B Leverkusen	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
Roma	4	0	1	3	4	11	1

Tue, November 23
Kyiv Dynamo v Roma
Real Madrid v Leverkusen

Wed, December 8
Leverkusen v Kyiv Dynamo
Roma v Real Madrid

Group C

October 19

Ajax (Hol) 3 (Sonck 4, De Jong 21, Van der Vaart 33)
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Ajax: Lobont - Trabelsi, Heitinga, De Jong, Maxwell, Pienaar, Obodai, Sneijder, Van der Vaart (Aborah 71), Sonck (De Ridder 74), Mitea (Boukhari 60).
Maccabi: Strauber - Pantsil, Giovanini, Strool, Nagar, Mishaelof (Zitoni 46), T Cohen, L Cohen (Bounfeld 85), Reis, Addo, Mbamba (Mesika 46).

Juventus (Ita) 1 (Nedved 76)
Bayern Munich (Ger) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,089. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Juventus: Buffon - Zebina, Thuram, Cannavaro, Zambrotta, Camoranesi, Emerson, Blasi, Nedved, Del Piero (Zalayeta 60), Ibrahimovic.
Bayern: Kahn - Kuffour (Hashemian 79), Lucio, Linke, Salihamidzic, Sagnol, Frings (Demichelis 86), Schweinsteiger, Ballack, Ze Roberto, Makaay.

November 3

Bayern Munich 0
Juventus 1 (Del Piero 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 59,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Bayern: Kahn - Sagnol (Gorlitz 46; Scholl 69), Lucio, Kovac, Salihamidzic (Guerrero 90), Hargreaves, Frings, Ballack, Schweinsteiger, Makaay, Pizarro.
Juventus: Buffon - Pessotto, Thuram, Cannavaro, Zambrotta, Camoranesi, Emerson, Blasi, Nedved, Ibrahimovic, Del Piero.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 2 (Dego 49, 57)
Ajax 1 (De Ridder 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Hrinak (Slk)
Maccabi: Strauber - Strool (Reis 71), Giovanini, Mishaelof, Abo Siam, L Cohen (Pantsil 77), Mesika, T Cohen, Moosa, Dego, Addo (Zitoni 86).
Ajax: Stekelenburg - Trabelsi, De Jong, Heitinga, Grygera, Sneijder, Obodai (Sonck 57), Van der Vaart, Pienaar (De Ridder 70), Rosales, Mitea (Boukhari 54).

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	4	4	0	0	4	0	12
Bayern Munich	4	2	0	2	5	2	6
Ajax	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Maccabi Tel Aviv	4	1	0	3	2	6	3

Tue, November 23
Bayern Munich v Maccabi Tel Aviv
Juventus v Ajax

Wed, December 8
Ajax v Bayern Munich
Maccabi Tel Aviv v Juventus

Group D

October 19

Fenerbahce (Tur) 1 (Nobre 68)
Lyon (Fra) 3 (Juninho 55, Cris 66, Frau 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,000. **Ref:** Baskakov (Rus)
Fenerbahce: Rustu - Serkan, Fabio Luciano, Servet, Umit, Marco Aurelio, Nobre, Deniz (Mehmet 46), Alex, Tuncay, Van Hooijdonk.
Lyon: Coupet - Reveillere, Cris, Cacapa, Abidal, Essien, Diarra, Juninho (Diatta 79), Govou (Frau 85), Wiltord (Nilmar 90), Malouda.

Sparta Prague (Cze) 0
Manchester United (Eng) 0
Att: 18,800. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Sparta: Blazek - Pergl, Homola, Kovac, Petras (Cech 82), Poborsky, Sivok, Zelenka (Simak 82), Vorisek, Urbanek, Jun (Meduna 75).
Man Utd: Carroll - G Neville, Brown, Silvestre, Heinze, Miller, Scholes, O'Shea, Giggs (Cristiano Ronaldo 80), Rooney (Saha 79), Van Nistelrooy.

November 3

Lyon 4 (Essien 22, Malouda 53, Nilmar 90, 90)
Fenerbahce 2 (Selcuk 14, Tuncay 73)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
Lyon: Coupet (Puydebois 73) - Reveillere, Diatta, Cris, Abidal, Essien, Diarra, Juninho, Govou (Nilmar 69), Frau (Ben Arfa 83), Malouda.
Fenerbahce: Rustu - Umit, Fabio Luciano, Servet, Deniz, Marco Aurelio, Selcuk, Serhat (Mehmet 86), Alex (Van Hooijdonk 89), Serkan, Tuncay (Fabiano 90). *Sent off: Servet 76min.*

Manchester United 4 (Van Nistelrooy 14, pen 25, 60, 90)
Sparta Prague 1 (Zelenka 53)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 66,706. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Man Utd: Carroll - G Neville, Ferdinand, Brown, Heinze, Miller, Keane, Scholes (P Neville 68), Cristiano Ronaldo (Kleberson 68), Rooney, Van Nistelrooy.
Sparta: Blazek - Pergl, Homola, Kovak, Petras, Poborsky, Sivok, Zelenka, Vorisek (Meduna 71), Urbanek (Simak 81), Jun (Pacanda 80). *Sent off: Poborsky 88min.*

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	4	3	1	0	11	6	10
Man Utd	4	2	2	0	12	5	8
Fenerbahce	4	1	0	3	6	13	3
Sparta Prague	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

Tue, November 23
Manchester United v Lyon
Sparta Prague v Fenerbahce

Wed, December 8
Fenerbahce v Manchester United
Lyon v Sparta Prague

Group E

October 20

Panathinaikos (Gre) 2 (Gonzalez 65, Olisadebe 82)
Arsenal (Eng) 2 (Ljungberg 18, Henry 74)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,500. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Panathinaikos: Chalkias - Vintra, Goumas, Morris, Kyrgiakos, Konstantinidis, Mitu (Epalle 77), Basinas, Gonzalez (Sapanis 90), Skacel, Constantinou (Olisadebe 64).
Arsenal: Lehmann - Lauren, Campbell, Toure, Cole, Ljungberg, Edu, Fabregas, Pires, Reyes, Henry.

Rosenborg (Nor) 1 (Storflor 42)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 2 (Farfan 26, De Jong 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,950. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Rosenborg: E Johnsen - Russell, Riseth, Hoftun, Stensaas, Strand, Winsnes, Solli, F Johnsen (Brattbakk 83), Helstad (Braaten 66), Storflor.
PSV: Gomes - Lucius, De Jong, Bouma, Lee, Van Bommel, Cocu, Vogel, Park, Vennegoor of Hesselink (Sibon 90), Farfan (Beasley 82). *Sent off: Park 90min.*

November 2

Arsenal 1 (Henry pen 17)
Panathinaikos 1 (Cygan og 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,137. **Ref:** Medina Cantalejo (Spa)
Arsenal: Lehmann - Lauren, Toure, Cygan, Cole, Ljungberg (Van Persie 82), Fabregas, Vieira, Pires, Bergkamp (Reyes 72), Henry.
Panathinaikos: Chalkias - Vintra, Kyrgiakos, Henriksen, Kotsios, Konstantinidis, Maric (Morris 89), Basinas, Skacel, Gonzalez (Constantinou 60), Papadopoulos (Mitu 62).

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Beasley 10)
Rosenborg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,250. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
PSV: Zoetebier - Lucius, Alex Dias, Bouma (Feher 89), Lee, Van Bommel, Cocu, Vogel, Farfan, Vennegoor of Hesselink (Sibon 76), Beasley (Vonlanthen 82).
Rosenborg: E Johnsen - Russell, Hansen, Hoftun, Dorsin, Strand (George 30), Solli, Winsnes, Storflor (Helstad 85), F Johnsen, Stensaas (Braaten 66).

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	4	3	0	1	4	2	9
Arsenal	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
Panathinaikos	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Rosenborg	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

Wed, November 24
PSV v Arsenal
Rosenborg v Panathinaikos

Tue, December 7
Arsenal v Rosenborg
Panathinaikos v PSV

Group F

October 20

Milan (Ita) 1 (Shevchenko 31)
Barcelona (Spa) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 76,502. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Milan: Dida - Cafu, Nesta, Stam, Maldini, Gattuso, Pirlo, Seedorf, Kaka (Serginho 83), Shevchenko (Crespo 89), Inzaghi (Ambrosini 76).
Barcelona: Victor Valdes - Belletti, Puyol, Oleguer, Van Bronckhorst, Marquez, Xavi, Deco, Eto'o (Iniesta 69), Larsson, Ronaldinho.

Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 3 (Matuzalem 57, 62, Brandao 78)
Celtic (Sco) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,500. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Shakhtar: Lastuvka - Barcauan, Stoican, Lewandowski, Rat, Tymoshchuk, Matuzalem, Vukic, Aghahowa (Srna 82), Vorobei (Brandao 75), Marica (Duljaj 46).
Celtic: Marshall - Balde, Varga, McNamara (McManus 31), Agathe, Petrov, Lennon, Juninho (McGeady 71), Sutton (Wallace 46), Hartson, Camara.

November 2

Barcelona 2 (Eto'o 37, Ronaldinho 89)
Milan 1 (Shevchenko 17)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 98,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Barcelona: Victor Valdes - Belletti, Puyol, Oleguer, Van Bronckhorst, Deco, Marquez (Larsson 80), Xavi, Giuly (Iniesta 67), Eto'o, Ronaldinho.
Milan: Dida - Cafu, Nesta, Maldini, Kaladze, Gattuso, Pirlo, Ambrosini, Kaka (Rui Costa 76), Serginho (Seedorf 74), Shevchenko (Tomasson 87).

Celtic 1 (Thompson 25)
Shakhtar Donetsk 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Celtic: Marshall - Agathe, Varga, Valgaeren, McNamara, McGeady (Wallace 79), Petrov, Lennon, Thompson, Hartson, Camara (Beattie 81).
Shakhtar: Lastuvka - Stoican, Barcauan, Lewandowski, Srna, Duljaj, Tymoshchuk, Matuzalem, Vukic (Hubschman 60), Aghahowa (Marica 68), Vorobei (Joao Batista 74). *Sent off: Tymoshchuk 43min, Barcauan 58min.*

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Barcelona	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Shakhtar	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
Celtic	4	1	0	3	3	9	3

Wed, November 24
Barcelona v Celtic
Milan v Shakhtar

Tue, December 7
Celtic v Milan
Shakhtar v Barcelona

Group G

October 20

Anderlecht (Blg) 1 (Wilhelmsson 26)
Werder Bremen (Ger) 2 (Klasnic 36, 59)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Anderlecht: Zitka - Kompany, De Boeck, Deschacht, Wilhelmsson, Hasi (Iachtchouk 67), Zetterberg, Baseggio, Ehret (Lovre 64), Mpenza, Dindane.
Werder: Reinke - Pasanen, Ismael, Baumann, Stalteri, Schulz, Ernst, Magnin, Micoud, Klose (Haedo Valdez 77), Klasnic (Lagerblom 86; Banecki 90).

Valencia (Spa) 1 (Aimar 73)
Internazionale (Ita) 5 (Stankovic 47, Vieri 49, Van der Meyde 76, Adriano 81, Cruz 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Navarro, Caneira (Corradi 65), Carboni, Rufete (Fiore 82), Albelda, Baraja, Angulo, Di Vaio, Aimar.
Inter: Fontana - Cordoba, Materazzi, Burdisso (J Zanetti 46), Favalli, Veron, Cambiasso, Stankovic, Emre, Vieri (Van der Meyde 75), Adriano (Cruz 83).

November 2

Internazionale 0
Valencia 0
Att: 55,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Inter: Fontana - J Zanetti, Cordoba, Materazzi, Ze Maria, Veron (C Zanetti 79), Cambiasso (Pasquale 88), Davids, Stankovic, Adriano, Martins (Recoba 78). *Sent off: Adriano 90min.*
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Marchena, Caneira, Carboni, Rufete, Albelda, Baraja (Sissoko 74), Angulo, Di Vaio (Corradi 71), Mista (Moretti 84).

Werder Bremen 5 (Klasnic 2, 16, 79, Klose 33, Jensen 90)
Anderlecht 1 (Iachtchouk 30)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 37,359. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Werder: Reinke - Stalteri, Ismael, Baumann, Schulz (Umit 66), Jensen, Ernst, Magnin, Micoud, Klose (Haedo Valdez 71), Klasnic (Haristeas 83).
Anderlecht: Peersman - Zewlakow, Traore, De Boeck, Deschacht, Wilhelmsson, Hasi (Zetterberg 67), Baseggio, Ehret (Vanden Borre 64), Iachtchouk, Dindane.

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	4	3	1	0	10	2	10
Werder Bremen	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
Valencia	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Anderlecht	4	0	0	4	3	12	0

Wed, November 24
Anderlecht v Valencia
Werder Bremen v Inter

Tue, December 7
Inter v Anderlecht
Valencia v Werder Bremen

Group H

October 20

Chelsea (Eng) 2 (Terry 9, Gudjohnsen 45)
CSKA Moscow (Rus) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 33,945. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Chelsea: Cech - Paulo Ferreira, Gallas, Terry, Bridge, Smertin (Parker 84), Makelele, Lampard, Duff (J Cole 77), Kezman (Tiago 63), Gudjohnsen.
CSKA: Akinfeev - Ignashevich, Semberas, A Berezutsky, Odiah, Aldonin, Daniel Carvalho (Laizans 25), Rahimic, Zhirkov, Vagner Love (Dadu 60), Semak (Krasic 72).

Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 2 (Coridon 30, Pauleta 31)
FC Porto (Por) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
PSG: Letizi - Pichot, Pierre-Fanfan, Yepes, Armand, Coridon, Cana, Mbami, Rothen (Boskovic 49), Reinaldo (Cisse 73), Pauleta (Ljuboja 83).
Porto: Vitor Baia - Seitaridis, Jorge Costa (Bosingwa 76), Pepe, Ricardo Costa, Costinha (Ricardo Quaresma 52), Maniche, Diego, Carlos Alberto, McCarthy, Derlei (Helder Postiga 69).

November 2

CSKA Moscow 0
Chelsea 1 (Robben 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 28,500. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
CSKA: Akinfeev - Semberas, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Semak (Olic 70), Rahimic, Jarosik, Zhirkov, Gusev, Krasic (Aldonin 46), Vagner Love (Kirichenko 82).
Chelsea: Cech - Johnson, Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, Gallas (Paulo Ferreira 54), Parker (Tiago 65), Makelele, Lampard, Duff, Robben, Gudjohnsen (Kezman 69).

FC Porto 0
Paris Saint-Germain 0
Att: 30,210. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)
Porto: Vitor Baia - Seitaridis, Jorge Costa, Pedro Emanuel, Ricardo Costa, Bosingwa, Diego (Carlos Alberto 65), Maniche, Ricardo Quaresma (Helder Postiga 78), McCarthy (Hugo Almeida 65), Derlei.
PSG: Letizi - Pichot, Pierre-Fanfan, Yepes, Armand, Mbami, Cana, Pancrate, Coridon (Mendy 74), Cisse (Boskovic 86), Pauleta (Ljuboja 89).

GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	4	4	0	0	9	1	12
CSKA Moscow	4	1	1	2	2	3	4
PSG	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
FC Porto	4	0	2	2	1	5	2

Wed, November 24
Chelsea v PSG
CSKA Moscow v Porto

Tue, December 7
Porto v Chelsea
PSG v CSKA Moscow

Top two from each group qualify for knockout stages; third-placed sides enter UEFA Cup

UEFA CUP

Group A

Oct 21: Feyenoord (Hol) 3 (Kuijt 22, 83, Goor 57) **Hearts (Sco) 0**; **Schalke (Ger) 1** (Kobiashvili 8) **Basle (Swi) 1** (Delgado 82).
Nov 4: Hearts 0 Schalke 1 (Lincoln 73); **Ferencvaros (Hun) 1** (Tozser 27) **Feyenoord 1** (Kalou 62).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Schalke	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Basle	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ferencvaros	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hearts	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

November 25
Basle v Hearts
Schalke v Ferencvaros

December 1
Ferencvaros v Basle
Feyenoord v Schalke

December 16
Basle v Feyenoord
Hearts v Ferencvaros

Group B

Oct 21: Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 2 (Gurpegi 6, Del Horno 49) **Parma (Ita) 0**; **Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 2** (Dragutinovic og 68, Neaga 81) **Standard Liege (Blg) 0**.
Nov 4: Besiktas (Tur) 3 (Ali 26, Carew 63, Ibrahim 89) **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Ezquerro 49); **Parma 1** (Budel 80) **Steaua Bucharest 0**.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Steaua	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Athletic Bilbao	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Parma	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Standard Liege	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

November 25
Standard Liege v Parma
Steaua Bucharest v Besiktas

December 1
Athletic Bilbao v Steaua Bucharest
Besiktas v Standard Liege

December 16
Parma v Besiktas
Standard Liege v Athletic Bilbao

Group C

Oct 21: Dnipro (Ukr) 3 (Venhlinskyi 14, 62, Rykun 45) **Club Brugge (Blg) 2** (Ceh 37, Balaban 43); **Zaragoza (Spa) 2** (David Villa 77, 82) **Utrecht (Hol) 0**.
Nov 4: Austria Wien (Aut) 1 (Gilewicz 70) **Zaragoza 0**; **Utrecht 1** (Douglas 88) **Dnipro 2** (Rotan 11, Semochko 83).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dnipro	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
Austria Wien	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Zaragoza	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Club Brugge	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Utrecht	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

November 25
Club Brugge v Utrecht
Dnipro v Austria Wien

December 1
Austria Wien v Club Brugge
Zaragoza v Dnipro

December 16
Club Brugge v Zaragoza
Utrecht v Austria Wien

Group D

Oct 21: Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) 0 Sochaux (Fra) 2 (Ilan 17, Paisley 37); **Panionios (Gre) 0 Newcastle (Eng) 1** (Shearer pen 86).
Nov 4: Newcastle 2 (Shearer 37, Bellamy 56) **Dinamo Tbilisi 0**; **Sporting Lisbon (Por) 4** (Custodio 5, Douala 38, Liedson 79, Hugo Viana 81) **Panionios 1** (Marcora 35).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Sporting Lisbon	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Sochaux	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Panionios	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Dinamo Tbilisi	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

November 25
Dinamo Tbilisi v Sporting Lisbon
Sochaux v Newcastle

December 1
Panionios v Dinamo Tbilisi
Sporting Lisbon v Sochaux

December 16
Newcastle v Sporting Lisbon
Sochaux v Panionios

Group E

Oct 21: Aigaleo (Gre) 0 Middlesbrough (Eng) 1 (Downing 78); **Lazio (Ita) 1** (Rocchi 85) **Villarreal (Spa) 1** (Jose Mari 4).
Nov 4: Middlesbrough 2 (Zenden 16, 71) **Lazio 0**; **Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 4** (Christou og 22, Ilic 55, 60, Vukcevic 68) **Aigaleo 0**.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Partizan	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Villarreal	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lazio	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Aigaleo	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

November 25
Lazio v Partizan Belgrade
Villarreal v Middlesbrough

December 2
Aigaleo v Lazio
Partizan Belgrade v Villarreal

December 15
Middlesbrough v Partizan Belgrade
Villarreal v Aigaleo

Group F

Oct 21: Amica Wronki (Pol) 0 Rangers (Sco) 5 (Lovenkrands 18, Novo 58, Ricksen 70, Arveladze pen 73, Thompson 88); **Auxerre (Fra) 0 Grazer AK (Aut) 0**.
Nov 4: AZ Alkmaar (Hol) 2 (Huysegems 2, 18) **Auxerre 0**; **Grazer AK 3** (Kollmann 32, pen 61, 72) **Amica Wronki 1** (Dembinski 27).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grazer AK	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Rangers	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
AZ	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Auxerre	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Amica Wronki	2	0	0	2	1	8	0

November 25
Amica Wronki v AZ Alkmaar
Rangers v Grazer AK

December 2
Auxerre v Amica Wronki
AZ Alkmaar v Rangers

December 15
Grazer AK v AZ Alkmaar
Rangers v Auxerre

Group G

Oct 21: Benfica (Por) 4 (Dos Santos 14, Nuno Gomes 32, 78, Karadas 73) **Heerenveen (Hol) 2** (Yildirim 49, Huntelaar pen 53); **Beveren (Blg) 1** (Romaric 86) **Stuttgart (Ger) 5** (Cacau 9, 52, Kuranyi 39, Lahm 76, Szabics 90).
Nov 4: Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 6 (Da Silva 18, Mijatovic 21, Zahora 35, 41, Kranjcar 55, Mujcin 87) **Beveren 1** (Vleminckx 81); **Stuttgart 3** (Cacau 31, Meissner 53, Kuranyi 72) **Benfica 0**.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stuttgart	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Dinamo Zagreb	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
Benfica	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Heerenveen	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Beveren	2	0	0	2	2	11	0

November 25
Benfica v Dinamo Zagreb
Heerenveen v Stuttgart

December 2
Beveren v Benfica
Dinamo Zagreb v Heerenveen

December 15
Heerenveen v Beveren
Stuttgart v Dinamo Zagreb

Group H

Oct 21: Alemannia Aachen (Ger) 1 (Meijer 67) **Lille (Fra) 0**; **Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 5** (Arshavin 44, Kerzhakov 48, 54, 68, Denisov 86) **AEK Athens (Gre) 1** (Krassas 3).
Nov 4: Lille 2 (Tafforeau 34, Moussilou 41) **Zenit St Petersburg 1** (Kerzhakov 38); **Sevilla (Spa) 2** (Aranda 7, Julio Baptista pen 77) **Alemannia Aachen 0**.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Sevilla	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Lille	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Alemannia	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
AEK Athens	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

November 25
AEK Athens v Lille
Zenit St Petersburg v Sevilla

December 2
Alemannia Aachen v Zenit St Petersburg
Sevilla v AEK Athens

December 15
AEK Athens v Alemannia Aachen
Lille v Sevilla

Top three from each group qualify for the knockout stages

AUSTRIA

Oct 16: Austria Wien 2 Mattersburg 0; Bregenz 1 Admira 1; Sturm Graz 1 Pasching 2; Wacker Tirol 0 Rapid Wien 2.
Oct 17: Salzburg 0 Grazer AK 1.
Oct 23: Admira 0 Sturm Graz 0; Pasching 4 Mattersburg 0; Wacker Tirol 3 Salzburg 1.
Oct 24: Grazer AK 3 Bregenz 0; Rapid Wien 1 Austria Wien 1.
Oct 26: Mattersburg 3 Admira 0.
Oct 27: Austria Wien 1 Pasching 2; Bregenz 3 Wacker Tirol 2; Salzburg 0 Rapid Wien 1; Sturm Graz 1 Grazer AK 0.
Oct 30: Admira 2 Pasching 4; Grazer AK 1 Mattersburg 1; Bregenz 1 Salzburg 1; Wacker Tirol 0 Austria Wien 2.
Oct 31: Rapid Wien 2 Sturm Graz 0.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid Wien	15	10	4	1	29	11	34
Austria Wien	15	9	4	2	34	9	31
Pasching	15	10	1	4	31	20	31
Grazer AK	15	8	2	5	18	13	26
Wacker Tirol	15	5	3	7	18	23	18
Admira	15	5	2	8	20	25	17
Salzburg	15	4	4	7	18	21	16
Mattersburg	15	4	3	8	18	26	15
Sturm Graz	15	3	3	9	8	19	12
Bregenz	15	2	4	9	15	42	10

BELGIUM

Friday, October 15

FC Brussels 0
Anderlecht 1 (Zetterberg 33) Att: 15,266

Saturday, October 16

Genk 2 (Vandenbergh 11, Engelaar 84)
Mons 2 (Datti 3, Cortes 62) Att: 20,495

Lierse 3 (Delorge 28, 70, Thompson 87)
Gent 2 (Boussafa 81, Jarakovic 90) Att: 7,000

Mouscron 1 (Gregoire 11)
Ostende 1 (Nijs 8) Att: 7,524

Standard 2 (Tchite 20, Leonard pen 25)
Westerlo 0 Att: 16,000

Sunday, October 17

Cercle Brugge 5 (Pivaljevic 19, 21, pen 68, Vlachos 86, Dekelver 89)
St Truiden 1 (Van Imschoot 58) Att: 4,050

Charleroi 2 (Orlando 18, Oulmers 76)
Beveren 1 (Romaric 3) Att: 8,820

La Louviere 1 (Ishiaku 6)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Cruz 85) Att: 4,163

Lokeren 0
Club Brugge 2 (Victor 1, Van Tornhout 90) Att: 7,500

Saturday, October 23

Gent 3 (Lokembo og 22, Kargbo og 39, Boussafa 68)
Charleroi 1 (Brogno 31) Att: 7,000

Mons 0
Lokeren 1 (Tailson 24) Att: 3,500

St Truiden 2 (Baratto 55, Van Imschoot 75)
FC Brussels 0 Att: 7,000

Westerlo 0
Mouscron 1 (Zewlakow 28) Att: 4,000

Sunday, October 24

Anderlecht 4 (Iachtchouk 63, Mokoena og 82, Dindane 89, 90)
Genk 2 (Engelaar 18, 67) Att: 23,653

Beveren 5 (Sanogo 18, Arunina 42, Ne 56, Romaric 65, 75)
Cercle Brugge 1 (Pivaljevic 55) Att: 3,000

Club Brugge 2 (Ceh 44, Englebert 81)
La Louviere 0 Att: 23,558

Germinal Beerschot 1 (Messoudi 50)
Standard 0 Att: 8,000

Ostende 2 (Santalab 36, Zoko 40)
Lierse 3 (Tohoua 15, Mitu 20, Delorge 49) Att: 3,000

Friday, October 29

Standard 1 (Tchite 27)
Club Brugge 4 (Balaban 23, Englebert 61, 78, Simons 87) Att: 21,000

Saturday, October 30

FC Brussels 1 (Culek 18)
Beveren 3 (Eboue 32, Arunina 44, Badjan 50) Att: 5,000

Charleroi 1 (Oulmers 9)
Ostende 0 Att: 9,000

Genk 1 (Engelaar 44)
St Truiden 0 Att: 22,254

La Louviere 4 (Matton 16, Toyes 26, Ishiaku 61, Van Handenhoven 67)
Mons 0 Att: 4,500

Lokeren 2 (Tailson 19, Ademilson 24)
Anderlecht 2 (Wilhelmsson 13, Dindane 48) Att: 10,500

Westerlo 1 (Ntuka Pule 70)
Germinal Beerschot 0 Att: 4,500

Sunday, October 31

Cercle Brugge 2 (Dekelver 72, De Smet 74)
Gent 1 (Cherrad 7) Att: 7,500

Mouscron 1 (Dimbala 16)
Lierse 3 (Thompson 8, Imschoot 40, Wils 67) Att: 9,000

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	11	9	2	0	30	5	29
Anderlecht	11	8	1	2	26	13	25
La Louviere	11	6	2	3	20	10	20
Charleroi	11	6	1	4	14	15	19
Lokeren	11	5	3	3	14	12	18
Gent	11	6	0	5	16	18	18
Standard	11	5	2	4	14	13	17
Genk	11	4	5	2	12	12	17
Lierse	11	5	1	5	19	18	16
Cercle Brugge	11	5	1	5	20	26	16
Beveren	11	4	3	4	17	13	15
Mouscron	11	4	3	4	12	12	15
Westerlo	11	4	2	5	10	14	14
Germinal B	11	4	1	6	12	11	13
St Truiden	11	2	3	6	8	17	9
FC Brussels	11	2	1	8	8	20	7
Mons	11	1	3	7	9	20	6
Ostende	11	0	4	7	10	22	4

LEADING GOALSCORER
8 Bosko Balaban (Club Brugge)

BULGARIA

Oct 16: Belasitsa 0 Slavia 0; Pirin 1 Marek 1; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Lovech 3; Rodopa 1 Vidima-Rakovski 1; Nesebar 1 Cherno More 1; Spartak Varna 2 Beroe 2; Naftex 0 Lokomotiv Sofia 0.
Oct 17: CSKA 2 Levski 2.
Oct 22: Lokomotiv Sofia 3 Spartak Varna 1.
Oct 23: Slavia 3 Beroe 2; Marek 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Cherno More 2 Naftex 0; Levski 2 Nesebar 0; Belasitsa 0 Pirin 0.
Oct 24: Vidima-Rakovski 0 CSKA 4; Lovech 2 Rodopa 0.
Oct 30: Pirin 2 Slavia 2; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3 Belasitsa 0; Rodopa 0 Marek 0; Nesebar 1 Vidima-Rakovski 2; Spartak Varna 1 Cherno More 0; Beroe 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Naftex 0 Levski 2.
Oct 31: CSKA 3 Lovech 1.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	11	10	1	0	39	7	31
Levski	11	9	2	0	27	7	29
Slavia	11	6	3	2	19	14	21
Lok Plovdiv	11	6	2	3	26	13	20
Lovech	11	6	1	4	21	14	19
Marek	11	4	3	4	12	16	15
Cherno More	11	4	1	6	15	16	13
Beroe	11	3	3	5	14	16	12
Pirin	11	2	6	3	11	14	12
Belasitsa	11	3	3	5	7	11	12
Rodopa	11	3	2	6	9	17	11
Vidima-Rakovski	11	2	4	5	11	18	10
Naftex	11	2	4	5	8	15	10
Lok Sofia*	11	3	3	5	11	18	9
Nesebar	11	2	3	6	9	21	9
Spartak Varna	11	2	1	8	9	31	7

**3pts deducted for non-payment of wages*

CROATIA

Oct 16: Zadar 3 Pula 0; Dinamo 1 Slaven 2; Osijek 2 Kamen Ingrad 0; Varteks 5 Medimurje 0; Rijeka 2 Zagreb 1; Inter 1 Hajduk 3.
Oct 23: Pula 0 Hajduk 1; Inter 1 Zagreb 0; Rijeka 3 Medimurje 1; Varteks 3 Kamen Ingrad 0; Osijek 1 Slaven 1; Dinamo 2 Zadar 1.
Oct 30: Dinamo 3 Pula 0; Zadar 2 Osijek 4; Slaven 0 Varteks 1; Kamen Ingrad 3 Rijeka 2; Medimurje 0 Inter 0; Zagreb 2 Hajduk 0.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	13	8	2	3	16	10	26
Rijeka	13	7	3	3	20	12	24
Hajduk	13	7	2	4	23	14	23
Varteks	13	7	1	5	28	19	22
Dinamo	13	5	5	3	24	16	20
Osijek	13	5	5	3	19	18	20
Slaven	13	6	2	5	11	15	20
Kamen Ingrad	13	6	1	6	19	18	19
Zagreb	13	4	1	8	14	18	13
Zadar	13	4	0	9	17	29	12
Pula	13	2	5	6	11	17	11
Medimurje	13	2	3	8	13	29	9

CZECH REPUBLIC

Oct 16: Sparta 2 Slavia 0; Brno 1 Zlin 1; Slovacko 0 Ceske Budejovice 0.
Oct 17: Jablonec 3 Pribram 1; Drnovice 1 Opava 1; Teplice 0 Chmel Blsany 0; Mlada Boleslav 1 Olomouc 2.
Oct 18: Ostrava 0 Liberec 4.
Oct 23: Zlin 2 Mlada Boleslav 2; Ostrava 0 Sparta 2; Olomouc 2 Brno 1; Ceske Budejovice 0 Teplice 1; Slavia 1 Opava 0.
Oct 24: Chmel Blsany 2 Slovacko 0; Pribram 1 Drnovice 2.
Oct 25: Liberec 1 Jablonec 1.
Oct 30: Slovacko 3 Zlin 0; Sparta 2 Olomouc 0; Brno 1 Pribram 2.
Oct 31: Jablonec 3 Chmel Blsany 0; Drnovice 1 Liberec 1; Opava 2 Ceske Budejovice 2; Mlada Boleslav 1 Ostrava 1.
Nov 1: Teplice 1 Slavia 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	11	9	2	0	26	8	29
Teplice	11	6	5	0	13	6	23
Olomouc	11	7	1	3	16	12	22
Liberec	11	6	2	3	16	5	20
Jablonec	11	4	4	3	13	11	16
Ostrava	11	4	4	3	14	15	16
Slavia	11	4	3	4	10	9	15
Brno	11	4	2	5	10	14	14
Drnovice	11	3	3	5	12	13	12
Zlin	11	2	5	4	8	14	11
Pribram	11	3	2	6	11	19	11
Opava	11	2	4	5	13	17	10
Chmel Blsany	11	2	3	6	6	13	9
Ceske Budejovice	11	1	4	6	7	13	7
Mlada Boleslav	11	1	4	6	8	16	7
Slovacko*	11	4	4	3	8	6	4

**12pts deducted for the club's part in a bribery scandal*

DENMARK

Oct 16: Brondby 2 OB 1.
Oct 17: AGF 2 AaB 2; Nordsjaelland 2 Esbjerg 3; Viborg 2 Midtjylland 1; Silkeborg 4 FC Copenhagen 1; Herfolge 3 Randers 2.
Oct 20: Randers 1 Esbjerg 1.
Oct 23: Randers 0 Brondby 2.
Oct 24: OB 3 Silkeborg 0; Midtjylland 2 Nordsjaelland 0; FC Copenhagen 0 Viborg 0; Esbjerg 3 AGF 1; AaB 3 Herfolge 0.
Oct 30: AGF 2 Midtjylland 2; Nordsjaelland 2 FC Copenhagen 3.
Oct 31: Viborg 1 OB 0; Silkeborg 0 Brondby 1; Herfolge 1 Esbjerg 1; AaB 1 Randers 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	13	9	3	1	21	7	30
Viborg	13	7	3	3	15	10	24
Midtjylland	13	6	3	4	19	18	21
FC Copenhagen	13	5	5	3	21	21	20
OB	13	6	1	6	24	18	19
AGF	13	5	4	4	22	18	19
AaB	13	5	3	5	21	15	18
Esbjerg	13	5	3	5	26	21	18
Herfolge	13	4	2	7	14	27	14
Silkeborg	13	4	1	8	21	25	13
Nordsjaelland	13	3	3	7	15	23	12
Randers	13	2	3	8	11	27	9

ENGLAND

Saturday, October 16

Arsenal 3 (Pires pen 19, 72, Henry 45)
Aston Villa 1 (Hendrie 2) Att: 38,137

Birmingham 0
Manchester Utd 0 Att: 29,221

Blackburn 0
Middlesbrough 4 (Hasselbaink 46, 57, 90, Boateng 48) Att: 20,385

Bolton 1 (Davies 45)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 25,501

Everton 1 (Osman 88)
Southampton 0 Att: 35,256

Fulham 2 (Boa Morte 24, 30)
Liverpool 4 (Knight og 50, Baros 71, Xabi Alonso 79, Biscan 90) Att: 21,884

Manchester City 1 (Anelka pen 11)
Chelsea 0 Att: 45,047

West Bromwich 0
Norwich 0 Att: 26,257

Sunday, October 17

Charlton 1 (O'Brien og 51)
Newcastle 1 (Bellamy 39) Att: 26,553

Monday, October 18

Portsmouth 1 (Aiyegbeni 62)
Tottenham 0 Att: 20,121

Saturday, October 23

Aston Villa 2 (Solano 29, Hendrie 75)
Fulham 0 Att: 34,460

Chelsea 4 (Gudjohnsen 37, 38, pen 51, Duff 74)
Blackburn 0 Att: 41,546

Crystal Palace 3 (Hall 5, Johnson pen 12, 50)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 22,922

Liverpool 2 (Riise 51, Luis Garcia 75)
Charlton 0 Att: 41,625

Norwich 2 (McKenzie 48, Francis 57)
Everton 3 (Kilbane 10, Bent 40, Ferguson 73) Att: 23,871

Tottenham 1 (Keane 41)
Bolton 2 (Jaidi 11, Pedersen 74) Att: 36,025

Sunday, October 24

Manchester Utd 2 (Van Nistelrooy pen 73, Rooney 90)
Arsenal 0 Att: 67,862

Middlesbrough 1 (Downing 74)
Portsmouth 1 (Kamara 5) Att: 30,964

Newcastle 4 (Robert 49, Shearer pen 58, Elliott 69, Bellamy 89)
Manchester City 3 (S Wright-Phillips 64, 77, Fowler pen 67) Att: 52,316

Southampton 0
Birmingham 0 Att: 27,568

Saturday, October 30

Arsenal 2 (Henry 67, Van Persie 90)
Southampton 2 (Delap 80, 85) Att: 38,141

Birmingham 0
Crystal Palace 1 (Johnson 41) Att: 28,916

Blackburn 2 (Bothroyd 16, Emerton 45)
Liverpool 2 (Riise 7, Baros 54) Att: 26,314

Charlton 1 (Johansson 46)
Middlesbrough 2 (El-Karkouri og 21, Zenden 58) Att: 26,031

Everton 1 (Bent 33)
Aston Villa 1 (Hendrie 26) Att: 37,816

Fulham 2 (Boa Morte 33, Cole 61)
Tottenham 0 Att: 21,317

Portsmouth 2 (Unsworth pen 53, Aiyegbeni 72)
Manchester Utd 0 Att: 20,190

West Bromwich 1 (Gera 56)
Chelsea 4 (Gallas 45, Gudjohnsen 52, Duff 59, Lampard 81) Att: 27,399

Sunday, October 31

Bolton 2 (Diouf 52, Davies 70)
Newcastle 1 (Ambrose 55) Att: 27,196

Monday, November 1

Manchester City 1 (Flood 11)
Norwich 1 (Francis 46) Att: 42,803

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	11	8	2	1	31	12	26
Chelsea	11	8	2	1	16	3	26
Everton	11	7	2	2	14	10	23
Bolton	11	6	3	2	18	13	21
Middlesbrough	11	5	3	3	19	14	18
Liverpool	10	5	2	3	18	10	17
Man Utd	11	4	5	2	11	9	17
Newcastle	11	4	4	3	22	19	16
Portsmouth	10	4	3	3	15	12	15
Aston Villa	11	3	6	2	14	13	15
Tottenham	11	3	4	4	6	8	13
Man City	11	3	3	5	13	12	12
Charlton	11	3	3	5	10	19	12
Crystal Palace	11	3	2	6	12	15	11
Fulham	11	3	2	6	12	19	11
Birmingham	11	1	6	4	7	10	9
West Bromwich	11	1	5	5	9	20	8
Southampton	11	1	4	6	8	14	7
Norwich	11	0	7	4	10	18	7
Blackburn	11	1	4	6	9	24	7

LEADING GOALSCORERS
9 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
8 Andy Johnson (Crystal Palace)

FRANCE

Friday, October 15

Lyon 4 (Diarra 13, Malouda 16, Essien 34, Frau pen 71)
Caen 0 Att: 33,816

Saturday, October 16

Ajaccio 2 (Waldir Lucas Pereira 50, 74)
Strasbourg 2 (Pagis 28, Niang 64) Att: 2,125

Auxerre 3 (Grichting 24, Mwaruwari 42, Violeau 83)
Lens 0 Att: 12,450

Bordeaux 2 (Riera pen 39, Meriem 56)
Istres 2 (Montano 9, Saifi 62) Att: 17,516

Lille 2 (Bodmer 4, Dernis 83)
Bastia 1 (Ben Saada 21) Att: 13,102

Metz 1 (Djiba 84)
Monaco 1 (Adebayor 55) Att: 23,987

Nantes 1 (Savinaud pen 90)
Paris SG 0 Att: 35,232

Nice 1 (Jarjat 26)
Toulouse 0 Att: 11,601

Sochaux 3 (Ilan 24, 59, 76)
Rennes 0 Att: 13,579

Sunday, October 17

Marseille 1 (Koke 90)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Feindouno 16) Att: 45,000

Saturday, October 23

Caen 2 (Lemaitre 43, Watier 63)
Nantes 1 (Bratu 7) Att: 20,529

Istres 0
Lyon 0 Att: 10,197

Paris SG 1 (Pancrate 10)
Ajaccio 0 Att: 35,487

Rennes 3 (Frei 29, 41, Monterrubio pen 65)
Metz 1 (Borbiconi 20) Att: 28,525

Saint-Etienne 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 34,917

Strasbourg 3 (Deroff 37, Pagis pen 83, Arrache 86)
Nice 1 (Balmont 79) Att: 11,694

Sunday, October 24

Bastia 1 (Sidibe 39)
Sochaux 1 (Santos 9) Att: 4,669

Lens 0
Marseille 0 Att: 38,000

Monaco 0
Auxerre 0 Att: 11,613

Toulouse 1 (Eduardo 89)
Lille 0 Att: 22,056

Friday, October 29

Marseille 1 (Koke 19)
Monaco 1 (Kallon 31) Att: 58,000

Saturday, October 30

Ajaccio 1 (Chapuis 35)
Nantes 1 (Bagayoko 30) Att: 4,200

Auxerre 1 (Kalou 57)
Paris SG 1 (Pauleta 34) Att: 20,000

Bordeaux 1 (Meriem 68)
Lens 1 (Utaka 60) Att: 25,714

Lille 1 (Dumont 9)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 14,902

Lyon 1 (Frau 67)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 38,220

Metz 2 (Renouard 3, Leca 5)
Bastia 0 Att: 15,087

Nice 0
Istres 0 Att: 9,740

Rennes 1 (Monterrubio pen 84)
Caen 1 (Bakour 74) Att: 23,839

Sochaux 2 (Mathieu 45, Ilan 87)
Toulouse 0 Att: 16,006

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	12	7	5	0	16	5	26
Lille	12	8	1	3	15	6	25
Auxerre	12	6	3	3	17	10	21
Monaco	12	5	5	2	15	11	20
Marseille	12	5	4	3	12	9	19
Sochaux	12	5	3	4	14	11	18
Bordeaux	12	3	8	1	16	8	17
Metz	12	4	5	3	12	16	17
Nantes	12	4	4	4	11	10	16
Nice	12	4	4	4	14	17	16
Toulouse	12	4	3	5	14	14	15
Caen	12	3	6	3	11	15	15
Rennes	12	4	3	5	11	15	15
Paris SG	12	3	5	4	14	15	14
Lens	12	2	7	3	12	12	13
Bastia	12	3	4	5	10	15	13
Saint-Etienne	12	1	6	5	11	16	9
Ajaccio	12	1	6	5	11	16	9
Strasbourg	12	1	5	6	12	20	8
Istres	12	0	7	5	6	13	7

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Alexander Frei (Rennes)
6 Waldir Lucas Pereira (Ajaccio)
6 Mickael Pagis (Strasbourg)

GERMANY

Saturday, October 16

Bayern Munich 0
Schalke 1 (Asamoah 76) Att: 63,000

Bochum 0
Hansa Rostock 1 (Prica 75) Att: 24,902

Hamburg 0
Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Owomoyela 58, Buckley 66) Att: 44,903

Hertha 3 (Gilberto 38, Marx 52, Marcelinho 78)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Schneider 54) Att: 47,152

Mainz 2 (N Weiland 83, Auer 90)
Werder Bremen 1 (Haristeas 56) Att: 20,300

Nurnberg 3 (Mintal 26, Vittek 49, Schroth 57)
Freiburg 0 Att: 21,006

Stuttgart 2 (Hinkel 52, Cacau 68)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 48,000

Sunday, October 17

Hannover 3 (Schroter 7, 64, Stendel 90)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 34,313

Monchengladbach 2 (Neuville 53, 78)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 53,466

Saturday, October 23

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Buckley 40)
Hertha 0 Att: 21,141

Borussia Dortmund 0
Hamburg 2 (Mpenza 10, Jarolim 70) Att: 78,000

Hansa Rostock 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Sagnol 82, Scholl 85) Att: 29,500

Kaiserslautern 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 34,843

Monchengladbach 0
Hannover 2 (Mertesacker 16, Cherundolo 35) Att: 43,506

Werder Bremen 4 (Klasnic 13, Micoud 18, Schulz 75, Ernst 88)
Nurnberg 1 (Mintal 64) Att: 38,800

Wolfsburg 3 (Thiam 27, Klimowicz 39, D'Alessandro 42)
Bochum 0 Att: 20,187

Sunday, October 24

Freiburg 2 (Iashvili 35, Coulibaly 90)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 25,000

Schalke 2 (Lincoln 25, Ailton 69)
Mainz 1 (N Weiland 60) Att: 61,524

Tuesday, October 26

Bayern Munich 2 (Pizarro 24, 45)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 37,000

Bochum 3 (Preuss 54, Wosz 86, Madsen 90)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 30,975

Hannover 3 (Tarnat 34, Stajner 65, 86)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Amanatidis 26) Att: 24,536

Hertha 0
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Koller 44) Att: 48,428

Wednesday, October 27

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Voronin 50, 54, 78)
Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Buckley 20, Vata 72) Att: 22,500

Hamburg 4 (Mpenza 5, Barbarez 28, 51, 57)
Freiburg 0 Att: 37,967

Mainz 3 (Gerber 54, N Weiland 70, Kramny 90)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Arvidsson 81) Att: 20,300

Nurnberg 0
Schalke 2 (Ailton 10, Sand 45) Att: 32,115

Stuttgart 1 (Delpierre 45)
Werder Bremen 2 (Klose 78, Haedo Valdez 81) Att: 41,000

Saturday, October 30

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ewerthon 41)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 78,000

Freiburg 1 (Cairo 25)
Hertha 3 (Rafael 36, Gilberto 50, Friedrich 63) Att: 23,000

Hannover 3 (Christiansen 16, Stendel 64, Leandro Fonseca 88)
Bochum 0 Att: 28,114

Monchengladbach 2 (Pletsch 49, Van Hout 83)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 53,466

Schalke 3 (Ailton 1, Kobiashvili 2, Lincoln 25)
Stuttgart 2 (Soldo 30, Szabics 33) Att: 61,524

Werder Bremen 1 (Schulz 74)
Hamburg 1 (Jarolim 22) Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 4 (Petrov pen 45, 45, pen 57, 62)
Mainz 3 (Abel 15, Casey 17, Babatz 75) Att: 24,951

Sunday, October 31

Hansa Rostock 0
Nurnberg 2 (Schroth 56, 59) Att: 16,300

Kaiserslautern 2 (Teber 80, 90)
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Buckley 79) Att: 32,351

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wolfsburg	11	8	0	3	20	14	24
Schalke	11	7	0	4	16	15	21
Stuttgart	11	6	2	3	20	12	20
Hannover	11	6	2	3	19	11	20
Bayern Munich	11	6	2	3	16	12	20
Werder Bremen	11	6	1	4	23	13	19
Mainz	11	5	3	3	20	17	18
B Leverkusen	11	4	3	4	17	17	15
Hertha	11	3	5	3	13	10	14
Arminia Bielefeld	11	4	2	5	11	12	14
B Dortmund	11	3	5	3	14	16	14
Nurnberg	11	3	4	4	18	18	13
Hamburg	11	4	1	6	15	18	13
M'gladbach	11	3	3	5	15	17	12
Bochum	11	2	4	5	15	22	10
Kaiserslautern	11	3	1	7	13	21	10
Freiburg	11	2	4	5	10	19	10
Hansa Rostock	11	2	2	7	10	21	8

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Oliver Neuville (Monchengladbach)
7 Delron Buckley (Arminia Bielefeld)
7 Miroslav Klose (Werder Bremen)

GREECE

Oct 16: Olympiakos 2 Ergotelis 0; OFI 2 Panionios 0; Panathinaikos 0 Aigaleo 0.
Oct 17: Kalamaria 1 Xanthi 1; Aris 1 Halkidona 2; Ionikos 0 Kerkira 0; Kallithea 1 PAOK 1; Iraklis 1 AEK 2.
Oct 23: Xanthi 3 Ergotelis 0; OFI 2 Iraklis 1.
Oct 24: Halkidona 1 Olympiakos 1; Aigaleo 0 Kalamaria 0; Kerkira 2 Panathinaikos 0; Panionios 1 Ionikos 0; PAOK 2 Aris 2; AEK 4 Kallithea 1.
Oct 30: Olympiakos 5 PAOK 1; Panathinaikos 4 Panionios 0.
Oct 31: Aigaleo 1 Xanthi 1; Kalamaria 3 Kerkira 0; Ergotelis 1 Halkidona 1; Ionikos 1 Iraklis 0; Aris 1 AEK 1; Kallithea 3 OFI 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	6	4	2	0	12	4	14
Panathinaikos	6	4	1	1	11	3	13
Olympiakos	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
Xanthi	6	3	2	1	11	7	11
Halkidona	6	3	2	1	9	6	11
Aigaleo	6	2	4	0	4	2	10
Kalamaria	6	2	2	2	5	4	8
PAOK	6	2	2	2	6	10	8
Kallithea	6	2	1	3	11	12	7
OFI	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Ionikos	6	2	1	3	3	5	7
Iraklis	6	2	0	4	4	6	6
Panionios	6	2	0	4	3	9	6
Kerkira	6	1	2	3	3	7	5
Aris	6	0	3	3	6	10	3
Ergotelis	6	0	2	4	2	11	2

HOLLAND

Friday, October 15

De Graafschap 1 (Van Leerdam 58)
AZ 3 (Landzaat pen 44, Huysegems 57, Nelisse 83) Att: 11,000

Saturday, October 16

Ajax 1 (Anastasiou 33)
Heerenveen 3 (Yildirim 53, Vayrynen 61, Selakovic 86) Att: 49,712

Den Bosch 2 (Van den Ouweland 5, Powel 74)
RBC 1 (Hertog 82) Att: 5,794

***Den Haag 0**
***PSV 2** (Vonlanthen 1, 53) Att: 7,500
**Game abandoned after 80 minutes because of hooliganism by Den Haag fans; result stood*

Sunday, October 17

Groningen 3 (Seedorf 11, Hugo 61, Elshot 72)
Utrecht 0 Att: 12,930

RKC 2 (Hoogendorp pen 22, Takak 36)
NEC 2 (Boutahar 45, Wielaert pen 66) Att: 5,800

Roda JC 0
Feyenoord 2 (Kuijt 60, Kalou 90) Att: 14,500

Vitesse 1 (Janssen 44)
NAC 2 (Boussaboun 35, Cornelisse 38) Att: 16,372

Friday, October 22

Willem II 4 (Redan 3, Matthijs og 52, Victoria 76, Reuser 90)
Groningen 2 (Krstev 10, Seedorf 54) Att: 11,950

Saturday, October 23

NEC 3 (Barreto 14, Boutahar 43, Denneboom 59)
NAC 3 (Zonneveld 5, Lurling 48, Cornelisse 63) Att: 12,000

RBC 0
Twente 1 (Christensen 61) Att: 4,750

Vitesse 0
AZ 3 (Buskermolen 31, Van Galen 48, Perez 51) Att: 16,970

Sunday, October 24

De Graafschap 1 (Kalezic 60)
Den Haag 2 (Bodde 15, El-Akchaoui 73) Att: 11,100

Feyenoord 4 (Castelen 11, Goor 66, 86, Kuijt 70)
RKC 0 Att: 37,000

Heerenveen 2 (Huntelaar 80, 83)
Utrecht 1 (Leitoe 90) Att: 17,752

PSV 2 (Lee 39, De Jong 49)
Ajax 0 Att: 35,000

Roda JC 5 (Kone 40, 47, 63, Sergio 69, Cisse 87)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 11,600

Wednesday, October 27

De Graafschap 2 (Valeev 49, De Graef 90)
Willem II 2 (Hadouir 11, Reuser 58) Att: 11,000

Den Haag 0
Twente 1 (Christensen 83) Att: 4,830

NAC 4 (Boussaboun 2, pen 23, 58, Lurling 17)
Roda JC 0 Att: 12,461

Friday, October 29

Utrecht 0
PSV 0 Att: 22,286

Saturday, October 30

Roda JC 1 (Van Dijk pen 86)
RKC 1 (Fuchs 7) Att: 11,575

Twente 1 (Christensen 90)
Vitesse 4 (Frankel 35, Hofs 69, Knopper 81, Janssen 84) Att: 13,200

Willem II 3 (Redan 68, Hadouir 72, Caluwe 78)
RBC 0 Att: 11,900

Sunday, October 31

Ajax 1 (Van der Vaart 24)
NEC 0 Att: 49,435

AZ 4 (Mathijsen 4, Perez 62, 76, Nelisse 88)
Feyenoord 1 (Kromkamp og 42) Att: 8,475

Den Bosch 2 (Van de Laak 27, Schulp 64)
Heerenveen 4 (Huntelaar 44, 79, Rose 87, Samaras 90) Att: 5,721

Groningen 4 (Salmon 22, 59, Seedorf 45, Elshot pen 47)
Den Haag 3 (Den Ouden 18, Van der Gun 88, Polak 90) Att: 12,173

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	10	8	2	0	27	5	26
Feyenoord	10	7	1	2	29	12	22
AZ	10	6	3	1	23	11	21
Heerenveen	10	6	1	3	20	17	19
Ajax	10	5	3	2	21	13	18
Utrecht	10	5	2	3	18	12	17
Willem II	10	5	2	3	18	17	17
NAC	10	5	2	3	22	25	17
Vitesse	10	4	2	4	17	16	14
Roda JC	11	4	2	5	19	21	14
NEC	10	3	3	4	13	13	12
RKC	10	3	3	4	13	14	12
Twente	10	3	2	5	12	15	11
Groningen	10	2	4	4	15	18	10
Den Bosch	10	2	2	6	9	27	8
Den Haag	11	2	1	8	12	22	7
De Graafschap	10	0	4	6	11	23	4
RBC	10	1	1	8	10	28	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS
9 Salomon Kalou (Feyenoord)
8 Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Heerenveen)
8 Dirk Kuijt (Feyenoord)

HUNGARY

Oct 16: Nyiregyhaza 3 Zalaegerszeg 3; Kaposvar 4 Honved 2; Videoton 3 Diosgyor 0; Matav 0 Debrecen 3; Vasas 3 Pecs 0; MTK 1 Gyor 0; Bekescsaba 1 Papa 1.
Oct 17: Ujpest 1 Ferencvaros 1.
Oct 19: Diosgyor 2 Zalaegerszeg 1.
Oct 20: Ujpest 2 MTK 0.
Oct 23: Videoton 5 Bekescsaba 0; Diosgyor 2 MTK 2; Gyor 0 Kaposvar 1; Honved 3 Nyiregyhaza 2; Zalaegerszeg 2 Vasas 0; Pecs 2 Matav 3; Ferencvaros 5 Papa 0.
Oct 24: Debrecen 1 Ujpest 2.
Oct 30: Nyiregyhaza 1 Gyor 1; Kaposvar 0 Diosgyor 1; MTK 2 Videoton 2; Papa 1 Debrecen 1; Ujpest 1 Pecs 1; Matav 1 Zalaegerszeg 2; Vasas 4 Honved 1.
Oct 31: Bekescsaba 0 Ferencvaros 3.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	11	9	1	1	29	8	28
Debrecen	11	7	1	3	20	11	22
Ujpest	11	6	4	1	21	13	22
Zalaegerszeg	11	6	3	2	22	12	21
MTK	11	5	3	3	15	10	18
Gyor	11	5	2	4	14	12	17
Kaposvar	11	5	2	4	14	18	17
Videoton	11	4	4	3	18	11	16
Papa	11	4	3	4	16	15	15
Matav	11	3	4	4	16	21	13
Pecs	11	3	2	6	11	16	11
Honved	11	3	2	6	17	25	11
Vasas	11	3	1	7	14	18	10
Diosgyor	11	3	1	7	12	20	10
Nyiregyhaza	11	0	6	5	13	25	6
Bekescsaba	11	1	3	7	9	26	6

ITALY

Saturday, October 16

Juventus 2 (Zalayeta 26, Nedved 54)
Messina 1 (Zampagna 69) Att: 29,622

Livorno 0
Roma 2 (Totti 30, Montella 69) Att: 18,492

Sunday, October 17

Bologna 2 (Bellucci pen 37, Amoroso 60)
Atalanta 1 (Budan 12) Att: 15,862

Brescia 3 (Di Biagio 25, Caracciolo 28, Mannini 47)
Parma 1 (Gilardino 11) Att: 6,902

Cagliari 0
Milan 1 (Pirlo 20) Att: 23,134

Fiorentina 0
Siena 0 Att: 34,119

Inter 3 (Adriano 8, 12, Vieri 57)
Udinese 1 (Mauri 50) Att: 43,500

Lazio 0
Chievo 1 (Brighi 71) Att: 33,112

Lecce 2 (Vucinic 49, 79)
Palermo 0 Att: 18,274

Reggina 0
Sampdoria 1 (Bazzani 36) Att: 15,520

Saturday, October 23

Atalanta 2 (Pazzini 2, Montolivo 40)
Cagliari 2 (Esposito 12, Loria 29) Att: 12,885

Siena 0
Juventus 3 (Del Piero 53, 60, Camoranesi 63) Att: 14,604

Sunday, October 24

Chievo 0
Reggina 0 Att: 7,897

Livorno 1 (C Lucarelli 71)
Bologna 0 Att: 14,322

Messina 1 (Di Napoli 43)
Lecce 4 (Vucinic 5, Bjelanovic 38, 44, Dalla Bona 89) Att: 27,696

Milan 0
Inter 0 Att: 79,775

Parma 3 (Marchionni 16, Bresciano 27, Gilardino 64)
Lazio 1 (Rocchi 37) Att: 11,521

Roma 1 (Totti pen 57)
Palermo 1 (Grosso 32) Att: 54,399

Sampdoria 0
Brescia 1 (Di Biagio pen 56) Att: 21,853

Udinese 2 (Mauri 17, Sensini 51)
Fiorentina 2 (Miccoli 15, 65) Att: 14,233

Wednesday, October 27

Bologna 0
Udinese 1 (Fava 55) Att: 15,156

Brescia 0
Siena 1 (Pecchia 18) Att: 6,461

Cagliari 2 (Abeijon 45, Esposito 85)
Parma 1 (Marchionni 63) Att: 14,578

Chievo 0
Sampdoria 2 (Volpi 33, Diana 35) Att: 8,334

Lazio 2 (Manfredini 36, De Souza 65)
Messina 0 Att: 33,078

Lecce 2 (Bojinov 36, 49)
Inter 2 (Adriano 4, Martins 33) Att: 26,136

Milan 3 (Tomasson 53, Kaladze 71, Serginho 90)
Atalanta 0 Att: 57,531

Palermo 1 (Mutarelli 5)
Livorno 2 (Vidigal 37, C Lucarelli 61) Att: 32,880

Reggina 1 (Paredes 59)
Fiorentina 2 (Maresca 72, Miccoli 88) Att: 15,279

Thursday, October 28

Juventus 2 (Del Piero 31, Zalayeta 74)
Roma 0 Att: 27,764

Saturday, October 30

Inter 1 (Adriano 46)
Lazio 1 (Talamonti 84) Att: 56,016

Sampdoria 0
Milan 1 (Shevchenko 76) Att: 28,226

Sunday, October 31

Fiorentina 4 (Jorgensen 45, Obodo 62, 71, Chiellini 90)
Lecce 0 Att: 30,478

Juventus 3 (Zalayeta 25, Nedved 65, Ibrahimovic 79)
Chievo 0 Att: 21,362

Livorno 2 (A Lucarelli 45, Doga 72)
Brescia 1 (Caracciolo 25) Att: 14,394

Messina 2 (Zampagna 65, Di Napoli 74)
Reggina 1 (Bonazzoli 32) Att: 28,068

Parma 2 (Gilardino 40, pen 55)
Atalanta 2 (Budan 45, Montolivo 73) Att: 11,343

Roma 5 (Dellas 2, Totti pen 6, Perrotta 63, Montella 89, 90)
Cagliari 1 (Suazo 31) Att: 45,289

Siena 1 (Chiesa 53)
Bologna 1 (Cipriani 36) Att: 6,830

Udinese 1 (Mauri 59)
Palermo 0 Att: 13,808

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	9	8	1	0	20	2	25
Milan	9	6	2	1	15	6	20
Lecce	9	4	3	2	20	15	15
Messina	9	4	2	3	14	14	14
Inter	9	2	7	0	17	14	13
Fiorentina	9	3	4	2	10	7	13
Chievo	9	3	4	2	7	9	13
Cagliari	9	4	1	4	12	15	13
Roma	9	3	3	3	18	16	12
Udinese	9	3	3	3	10	8	12
Lazio	9	3	3	3	10	9	12
Sampdoria	9	4	0	5	8	8	12
Livorno	9	3	2	4	10	13	11
Bologna	9	3	1	5	8	10	10
Palermo	9	2	4	3	6	8	10
Brescia	9	3	0	6	9	16	9
Siena	9	2	3	4	5	12	9
Reggina	9	1	4	4	6	10	7
Parma	9	1	4	4	10	16	7
Atalanta	9	0	5	4	11	18	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
7 Adriano (Inter)

NORWAY

Oct 16: Rosenborg 1 Stabaek 2.
Oct 17: Fredrikstad 3 Brann 2; Lillestrom 0 Bodo/Glimt 0; Molde 0 Ham-Kam 0; Viking 0 Lyn 0; Valerenga 0 Sogndal 0.
Oct 18: Odd Grenland 3 Tromso 1.
Oct 24: Bodo/Glimt 0 Rosenborg 1; Brann 1 Viking 0; Fredrikstad 1 Tromso 0; Ham-Kam 0 Valerenga 1; Lyn 1 Lillestrom 1; Sogndal 4 Odd Grenland 2; Stabaek 1 Molde 3.
Oct 31: Lillestrom 2 Brann 2; Molde 3 Bodo/Glimt 0; Odd Grenland 2 Ham-Kam 2; Rosenborg 4 Lyn 1; Tromso 3 Sogndal 1; Viking 5 Fredrikstad 2; Valerenga 3 Stabaek 0.

NORWAY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	26	14	6	6	52	34	48
Valerenga	26	13	9	4	40	22	48
Brann	26	12	4	10	46	40	40
Tromso	26	12	4	10	38	32	40
Ham-Kam	26	10	8	8	34	33	38
Lyn	26	9	10	7	30	31	37
Lillestrom	26	8	11	7	45	33	35
Odd Grenland	26	9	8	9	47	44	35
Viking	26	7	12	7	31	33	33
Fredrikstad	26	9	5	12	42	54	32
Molde	26	7	10	9	34	37	31
Bodo/Glimt	26	7	6	13	28	41	27
Stabaek	26	7	6	13	25	40	27
Sogndal	26	5	7	14	39	57	22

POLAND

Oct 15: Cracovia 2 Polonia 1.
Oct 16: Pogon 2 Gornik L 1; Amica 2 Wisla P 1; Zaglebie 7 Katowice 0; Gornik Z 1 Lech 2; Legia 0 Groclin 1.
Oct 17: Odra 1 Wisla K 2.
Oct 20: Legia 2 Gornik Z 1.
Oct 23: Polonia 1 Groclin 0; Wisla P 1 Odra 0.
Oct 29: Wisla K 2 Legia 0.
Oct 30: Katowice 1 Cracovia 0; Pogon 1 Amica 0; Groclin 3 Gornik Z 1; Polonia 1 Odra 0; Wisla P 2 Zaglebie 0; Gornik L 2 Lech 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla K	10	8	2	0	33	4	26
Groclin	10	8	0	2	17	8	24
Amica	10	5	3	2	17	10	18
Legia	10	5	3	2	11	9	18
Wisla P	11	5	2	4	16	14	17
Cracovia	10	4	2	4	15	12	14
Polonia	10	4	2	4	11	15	14
Pogon	10	4	1	5	16	23	13
Zaglebie	10	3	3	4	17	20	12
Gornik Z	10	2	4	4	11	11	10
Lech	10	3	1	6	12	20	10
Odra	11	3	0	8	11	16	9
Gornik L	10	3	0	7	11	20	9
Katowice	10	2	1	7	10	26	7

PORTUGAL

Sunday, October 10

Beira Mar 2 (Kingsley 34, Tanque Silva 86)
Maritimo 2 (Bibishkov 59, 90)

Friday, October 15

Gil Vicente 0
Sporting Braga 1 (Bruno Tiago og 61)

Saturday, October 16

Estoril 1 (Joao Paulo 51)
Sporting Lisbon 4 (Liedson 6, 19, Hugo Viana 62, 84)

Maritimo 1 (Wenio 47)
Moreirense 0

Nacional 1 (Miguel Fidalgo 31)
Guimaraes 0

Sunday, October 17

Belenenses 4 (Antchouet 46, 67, Rolando 54, Nuno Silva 88)
Penafiel 1 (Wesley pen 29)

Benfica 0
FC Porto 1 (McCarthy 10)

Rio Ave 1 (Gaucho pen 43)
Beira Mar 1 (McPhee 65)

Uniao Leiria 0
Boavista 3 (Jose Manuel 41, 83, Andre Barreto 70)

Monday, October 18

Setubal 1 (Meyong pen 80)
Academica 0

Friday, October 22

Boavista 0
Estoril 0

Saturday, October 23

Moreirense 0
Rio Ave 0

Sporting Braga 2 (Joao Tomas 29, Wender 30)
Setubal 3 (Jorginho 24, Manuel Jose 52, Ricardo Chaves 77)

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Liedson 85, Douala 86)
Belenenses 0

Sunday, October 24

Academica 1 (Paulo Adriano 25)
Maritimo 0

Beira Mar 0
Uniao Leiria 1 (Fabio Felicio 50)

Benfica 2 (Karadas 62, Sokota 82)
Nacional 1 (Alexandre Goulart 87)

Guimaraes 2 (Silva 40, Braulio 45)
Gil Vicente 1 (Marcos Antonio 60)

FC Porto 2 (McCarthy 13, 24)
Penafiel 0

Saturday, October 30

Nacional 2 (Raul Meireles og 89, Adriano 90)
FC Porto 2 (Diego 1, McCarthy 51)

Penafiel 0
Sporting Lisbon 3 (Nuno Silva og 48, Custodio 72, Liedson 88)

Sunday, October 31

Belenenses 1 (Antchouet 14)
Boavista 2 (Andre Barreto 6, Tiago 90)

Estoril 5 (Arrieta 12, 36, Dorival 15, Yuri 79, 90)
Beira Mar 0

Gil Vicente 1 (Nandinho 39)
Benfica 1 (Simao 90)

Rio Ave 3 (Gama 44, Ricardo Nascimento 47, Paulo Cesar 90)
Academica 1 (Luciano pen 72)

Uniao Leiria 0
Moreirense 0

Monday, November 1

Maritimo 2 (Leo Lima 31, Bibishkov 88)
Sporting Braga 0

Setubal 1 (Ricardo Chaves 80)
Guimaraes 0

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Setubal	8	5	2	1	15	8	17
Benfica	8	5	2	1	11	6	17
FC Porto	8	4	4	0	13	6	16
Maritimo	8	5	1	2	11	7	16
Sporting Lisbon	8	4	2	2	14	8	14
Boavista	8	4	2	2	9	5	14
Rio Ave	8	2	6	0	9	6	12
Sporting Braga	8	3	3	2	10	10	12
Belenenses	8	3	1	4	13	13	10
Nacional	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
Estoril	8	2	3	3	12	12	9
Uniao Leiria	8	2	3	3	10	12	9
Beira Mar	8	2	2	4	9	15	8
Guimaraes	8	2	1	5	5	8	7
Academica	8	2	1	5	8	12	7
Moreirense	8	1	4	3	6	10	7
Penafiel	8	2	1	5	7	19	7
Gil Vicente	8	1	1	6	8	12	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Liedson (Sporting Lisbon)
6 Benni McCarthy (FC Porto)

ROMANIA

Oct 16: U Craiova 0 Poli AEK 1; Farul 1 Bacau 0; Sportul 1 National 0; Poli Iasi 0 CFR Cluj 0; Dinamo 4 Gloria 1.
Oct 17: Apulum 1 Rapid 1; Arges 0 Brasov 1; Steaua 1 Otelul 0.
Oct 22: National 6 Poli Iasi 0; Poli AEK 0 Arges 2.
Oct 23: Gloria 4 U Craiova 3; Bacau 1 Sportul 1; Brasov 1 Farul 0.
Oct 24: Otelul 2 Apulum 0; Rapid 2 Dinamo 1; CFR Cluj 0 Steaua 2.
Oct 30: U Craiova 2 Rapid 0; Arges 4 Gloria 3; Farul 4 Poli AEK 0; Sportul 2 Brasov 0; Poli Iasi 1 Bacau 0.
Oct 31: Dinamo 4 Apulum 2; Steaua 5 National 1; CFR Cluj 1 Otelul 0.
Nov 3: Brasov 2 Otelul 1; Poli Iasi 2 Dinamo 3.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	11	8	1	2	24	8	25
National	12	8	1	3	24	14	25
Dinamo	12	7	0	5	24	18	21
Rapid	12	6	3	3	18	12	21
Gloria	12	6	1	5	24	19	19
CFR Cluj	12	5	4	3	17	15	19
Farul	12	5	3	4	15	10	18
Sportul	12	4	4	4	16	13	16
Bacau	12	4	4	4	8	9	16
Otelul	12	5	0	7	9	12	15
Arges	12	3	5	4	15	17	14
U Craiova	12	3	4	5	14	20	13
Brasov	12	4	1	7	13	19	13
Poli AEK	12	3	2	7	12	22	11
Apulum	11	3	2	6	13	27	11
Poli Iasi	12	2	3	7	9	20	9

RUSSIA

Oct 16: FC Moscow 1 Lokomotiv 2; Rubin 1 Zenit 1; Amkar 3 Kryliya Sovetov 1; CSKA 2 Rostov 0.
Oct 17: Torpedo 3 Dinamo 1; Rotor 1 Kuban 1; Saturn 5 Alaniya 1; Shinnik 1 Spartak 1.
Oct 23: Kryliya Sovetov 2 FC Moscow 1; Spartak 1 Rotor 1; Kuban 1 Torpedo 2.
Oct 24: Alaniya 2 Shinnik 1; Dinamo 0 Saturn 2; Rostov 0 Amkar 0; Lokomotiv 0 Rubin 0.
Oct 25: Zenit 0 CSKA 3.
Oct 29: FC Moscow 2 Spartak 3.
Oct 30: Shinnik 1 Rostov 0; CSKA 1 Kryliya Sovetov 1; Torpedo 3 Alaniya 2; Amkar 0 Lokomotiv 1; Rotor 0 Dinamo 0; Rubin 2 Kuban 0.
Oct 31: Saturn 1 Zenit 3.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	28	16	8	4	49	21	56
Lokomotiv	28	16	7	5	39	18	55
Zenit	28	16	5	7	48	32	53
Torpedo	28	15	6	7	48	33	51
Kryliya Sovetov	28	15	5	8	47	40	50
Shinnik	28	12	8	8	29	26	44
Spartak	28	11	6	11	42	41	39
Saturn	28	9	11	8	34	28	38
FC Moscow	28	9	10	9	34	33	37
Rubin	28	6	12	10	28	29	30
Alaniya	28	7	7	14	26	46	28
Dinamo	28	6	9	13	26	37	27
Amkar	28	5	12	11	24	39	27
Rostov	28	6	8	14	26	38	26
Kuban	28	4	10	14	23	41	22
Rotor	28	4	10	14	26	47	22

SCOTLAND

Saturday, October 16

Celtic 3 (Camara 41, Juninho 57, Hartson 82)
Hearts 0 Att: 58,869

Dundee 3 (Robb 30, Sutton 63, Anderson 87)
Kilmarnock 1 (Boyd 5) Att: 4,637

Hibernian 2 (O'Connor 11, Fletcher 55)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 9,927

Inverness 1 (McBain 36)
Aberdeen 3 (Adams 28, pen 64, Mackie pen 90) Att: 9,530

Livingston 2 (Wilson og 5, Snodgrass 41)
Dunfermline 0 Att: 2,815

Sunday, October 17

Motherwell 0
Rangers 2 (Prso 7, 83) Att: 10,946

Saturday, October 23

Aberdeen 2 (Adams 67, Severin 89)
Motherwell 1 (McBride pen 29) Att: 10,737

Dundee 1 (Anderson 52)
Dunfermline 2 (Thomson 35, Derek Young 48) Att: 5,456

Kilmarnock 2 (Murray 5, Greer 27)
Inverness 2 (Wilson 16, Fox 83) Att: 4,721

Sunday, October 24

Hearts 2 (Kisnorbo 15, Hammill 76)
Hibernian 1 (Riordan 90) Att: 16,720

Livingston 2 (O'Brien 45, 53)
Celtic 4 (Petrov 2, Camara 14, Hartson 19, Sutton 32) Att: 7,695

Rangers 1 (Novo 69)
Dundee Utd 1 (Robson 90) Att: 46,796

Wednesday, October 27

Celtic 2 (Hartson 45, 69)
Aberdeen 3 (Mackie 5, Pasquinelli 6, Stewart 90) Att: 57,151

Dundee Utd 1 (Wilson 62)
Hearts 1 (McKenna 5) Att: 5,723

Dunfermline 1 (Brewster 22)
Rangers 2 (Boumsong 47, Novo pen 58) Att: 8,678

Hibernian 2 (Beuzelin 9, Fletcher 23)
Livingston 1 (Lilley pen 65) Att: 9,534

Inverness 2 (Bayne 40, Juanjo 58)
Dundee 1 (Lovell 72) Att: 1,254

Motherwell 0
Kilmarnock 1 (Nish 57) Att: 4,521

Saturday, October 30

Dundee Utd 1 (Wilson pen 7)
Dunfermline 2 (Tod 8, Darren Young 90) Att: 6,297

Hearts 3 (McKenna 34, Hartley 81, Wyness 90)
Dundee 0 Att: 10,172

Inverness 2 (Bayne 39, Wilson 87)
Livingston 0 Att: 1,279

Kilmarnock 3 (Nish 20, 42, Dargo 40)
Hibernian 1 (Shiels 69) Att: 5,959

Motherwell 2 (Corrigan 67, Foran pen 71)
Celtic 3 (McGeady 41, Thompson pen 65, Beattie 77) Att: 10,592

Sunday, October 31

Rangers 5 (Thompson 39, Lovenkrands 68, Novo 75, pen 90, Ricksen 88)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 48,918

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	12	10	1	1	33	12	31
Rangers	12	8	3	1	23	4	27
Aberdeen	12	6	4	2	14	12	22
Hearts	12	5	4	3	11	8	19
Kilmarnock	12	6	1	5	18	18	19
Hibernian	12	5	3	4	19	20	18
Motherwell	12	4	2	6	17	19	14
Dunfermline	12	3	3	6	9	16	12
Inverness	12	3	2	7	13	19	11
Dundee	12	2	3	7	13	22	9
Livingston	12	2	3	7	11	20	9
Dundee Utd	12	1	5	6	13	24	8

LEADING GOALSCORER
10 John Hartson (Celtic)

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Oct 16: Zeta 4 Borac 0; Hajduk B 2 Zemun 0; Cukaricki 1 Vojvodina 1; Sutjeska 3 OFK 2; Partizan 0 Red Star 0; Sartid 1 Obilic 1.
Oct 17: Hajduk K 3 Zeleznik 0; Radnicki NB 2 Buducnost P 1.
Oct 23: Borac 0 Buducnost P 2; Obilic 1 Radnicki NB 1; Zeleznik 0 Sartid 1; Red Star 2 Hajduk K 1; OFK 0 Partizan 2; Vojvodina 3 Sutjeska 0; Zemun 0 Cukaricki 0; Zeta 5 Hajduk B 2.
Oct 30: Hajduk B 1 Borac 2; Cukaricki 0 Zeta 1; Sutjeska 1 Zemun 0; Partizan 1 Vojvodina 0; Hajduk K 0 OFK 0; Sartid 0 Red Star 2; Buducnost P 3 Obilic 1.
Oct 31: Radnicki NB 1 Zeleznik 0.
Nov 3: Vojvodina 1 Red Star 3.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	11	9	2	0	25	5	29
Red Star	11	8	2	1	22	6	26
Zeta	11	8	1	2	21	8	25
Buducnost P	11	6	1	4	15	13	19
Hajduk K	11	4	4	3	14	12	16
OFK	11	5	1	5	16	15	16
Zemun	11	4	3	4	15	14	15
Vojvodina	11	4	3	4	14	13	15
Radnicki NB	11	4	3	4	11	12	15
Sutjeska	11	4	3	4	9	15	15
Sartid	11	3	5	3	8	8	14
Borac	11	3	3	5	8	16	12
Cukaricki	11	1	4	6	5	13	7
Zeleznik	11	1	3	7	7	16	6
Obilic	11	1	3	7	11	23	6
Hajduk B	11	1	3	7	10	22	6

SPAIN

Saturday, October 16

Betis 1 (Ricardo Oliveira 30)
Real Madrid 1 (Ronaldo 65) Att: 45,000

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Sergio 17, Victor 72)
Getafe 1 (Mario Cotelo 90) Att: 20,000

Espanyol 0
Barcelona 1 (Deco 9) Att: 34,400

Sunday, October 17

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Urzaiz 34)
Malaga 0 Att: 30,000

Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 10)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 45,000

Mallorca 1 (Luis Garcia 18)
Villarreal 1 (Forlan 21) Att: 14,000

Numancia 1 (Jaime Molina 85)
Levante 3 (Manchev 30, Sergio Garcia 60, Nacho Perez 64) Att: 7,000

Osasuna 4 (Punal 19, Valdo 40, David Lopez 66, Francisco og 89)
Albacete 2 (Buades 42, Redondo 51) Att: 13,405

Valencia 1 (Ocio og 59)
Sevilla 2 (Julio Baptista 65, Aranda 82) Att: 47,000

Zaragoza 2 (Villa 29, Savio 65)
Real Sociedad 1 (Karpin pen 35) Att: 29,000

Saturday, October 23

Malaga 1 (Wanchope 6)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Diego Tristan 86) Att: 26,000

Real Madrid 1 (Owen 8)
Valencia 0 Att: 78,326

Sunday, October 24

Albacete 1 (Ruben Castro 44)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 14,100

Barcelona 3 (Eto'o 39, 90, Ronaldinho pen 43)
Osasuna 0 Att: 67,461

Getafe 0
Betis 2 (Tais 49, Doblas 75) Att: 13,000

Levante 0
Espanyol 2 (Serrano 51, Lopo 71) Att: 18,142

Racing Santander 1 (Regueiro 4)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 12,280

Real Sociedad 2 (Karpin pen 12, De Paula 85)
Mallorca 1 (Arango 53) Att: 22,669

Sevilla 2 (Ocio 10, Julio Baptista 52)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Pablo Ibanez 90) Att: 45,000

Villarreal 4 (Riquelme 20, Hector Font 60, 68, Forlan 85)
Numancia 0 Att: 16,000

Saturday, October 30

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Yeste 14)
Barcelona 1 (Eto'o 11) Att: 39,000

Valencia 1 (Angulo 63)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 78) Att: 45,000

Sunday, October 31

Betis 1 (Ricardo Oliveira 3)
Malaga 1 (Gerardo 42) Att: 35,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Albacete 0 Att: 20,000

Espanyol 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 18,100

Mallorca 1 (Jorge Lopez 79)
Racing Santander 2 (Pedro Lopez 2, Benayoun 90) Att: 10,000

Numancia 0
Real Sociedad 2 (Labaka 67, Karpin 79) Att: 15,000

Osasuna 0
Levante 1 (Sergio Garcia 23) Att: 13,657

Real Madrid 2 (Owen 27, Ronaldo 78)
Getafe 0 Att: 75,000

Zaragoza 3 (Galletti 13, Villa pen 27, 59)
Sevilla 0 Att: 31,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	9	7	2	0	18	4	23
Sevilla	9	5	2	2	10	8	17
Real Madrid	9	5	1	3	8	5	16
Zaragoza	9	5	1	3	17	15	16
Levante	9	5	1	3	14	12	16
Valencia	9	4	3	2	17	10	15
Espanyol	9	4	2	3	9	5	14
Atletico Madrid	9	4	2	3	9	6	14
Osasuna	9	4	1	4	12	14	13
Dep La Coruna	9	3	4	2	10	13	13
Malaga	9	3	3	3	10	8	12
Villarreal	9	2	5	2	9	5	11
Betis	9	2	5	2	12	13	11
Real Sociedad	9	3	2	4	9	10	11
Racing Santander	9	3	2	4	6	10	11
Athletic Bilbao	9	2	3	4	10	13	9
Albacete	9	2	3	4	7	10	9
Getafe	9	2	0	7	8	15	6
Mallorca	9	1	2	6	7	14	5
Numancia	9	1	2	6	4	16	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona)
6 David Villa (Zaragoza)

SWEDEN

Oct 17: Halmstads 1 Kalmar 0; Djurgardens 3 Elfsborg 2; Sundsvall 2 IFK Gothenburg 1.
Oct 18: Orebro 3 Trelleborgs 0; Malmo 0 Landskrona 1; Orgryte 1 Helsingborgs 1; Hammarby 1 AIK 1.
Oct 24: AIK 0 Orgryte 3; Kalmar 0 Orebro 1; Landskrona 4 Trelleborgs 0.
Oct 25: Elfsborg 0 Hammarby 1; Sundsvall 0 Djurgardens 1; Helsingborgs 1 Halmstads 2; IFK Gothenburg 1 Malmo 2.
Oct 30: Trelleborgs 1 AIK 3; Orebro 2 Landskrona 0; Hammarby 0 Kalmar 3; Malmo 1 Elfsborg 0; Halmstads 1 IFK Gothenburg 1; Djurgardens 2 Helsingborgs 1; Orgryte 1 Sundsvall 3.

SWEDEN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmo	26	15	7	4	44	21	52
Halmstads	26	14	8	4	53	27	50
IFK Gothenburg	26	14	5	7	33	20	47
Djurgardens	26	11	8	7	38	32	41
Kalmar	26	10	10	6	27	18	40
Hammarby	26	10	7	9	28	28	37
Orebro	26	9	6	11	32	45	33
Sundsvall	26	8	8	10	28	30	32
Elfsborg	26	8	8	10	25	32	32
Helsingborgs	26	7	9	10	41	33	30
Landskrona	26	7	9	10	27	33	30
Orgryte	26	6	10	10	25	33	28
AIK	26	5	10	11	23	35	25
Trelleborgs	26	2	7	17	18	55	13

SWITZERLAND

Oct 16: Basle 2 Servette 1; Thun 0 Zurich 1; Aarau 0 Neuchatel Xamax 0.
Oct 17: St Gallen 2 Schaffhausen 2; Grasshopper 0 Young Boys 1.
Oct 30: Servette 1 Aarau 0.
Oct 31: Neuchatel Xamax 3 St Gallen 0; Young Boys 2 Thun 1; Schaffhausen 1 Grasshopper 2; Zurich 0 Basle 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	13	7	4	2	27	13	25
Thun	13	6	3	4	18	10	21
Young Boys	13	5	5	3	24	19	20
Neuchatel X	13	5	4	4	19	16	19
Zurich	13	5	3	5	17	16	18
Aarau	13	4	4	5	18	19	16
Grasshopper	13	3	6	4	11	20	15
Servette*	13	4	4	5	15	21	13
Schaffhausen	13	2	6	5	16	23	12
St Gallen	13	2	5	6	17	25	11

**3pts deducted for licensing irregularities during the 2003-04 season*

TURKEY

Oct 16: Sakaryaspor 1 Ankaragucu 0; Gaziantepspor 0 Fenerbahce 1; Genclerbirligi 2 Rizespor 1; Besiktas 4 Diyarbakirspor 0.
Oct 17: Malatyaspor 1 Samsunspor 2; Ankaraspor 1 Trabzonspor 1; Sebatspor 2 Istanbulspor 2; Denizlispor 2 Konyaspor 1; Galatasaray 5 Kayserispor 1.
Oct 23: Istanbulspor 0 Malatyaspor 2; Samsunspor 2 Genclerbirligi 0; Trabzonspor 0 Galatasaray 1; Konyaspor 2 Gaziantepspor 2.
Oct 24: Fenerbahce 6 Sakaryaspor 0; Ankaragucu 1 Besiktas 4; Diyarbakirspor 1 Ankaraspor 0; Kayserispor 4 Sebatspor 1; Rizespor 2 Denizlispor 0.
Oct 29: Trabzonspor 4 Diyarbakirspor 1.
Oct 30: Besiktas 2 Fenerbahce 1; Denizlispor 2 Samsunspor 0; Genclerbirligi 1 Istanbulspor 0; Gaziantepspor 0 Rizespor 1.
Oct 31: Ankaraspor 2 Ankaragucu 0; Galatasaray 2 Sebatspor 0; Malatyaspor 0 Kayserispor 1; Sakaryaspor 1 Konyaspor 4.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	11	9	1	1	28	8	28
Galatasaray	11	9	1	1	24	7	28
Trabzonspor	11	8	2	1	24	9	26
Denizlispor	11	7	0	4	16	13	21
Malatyaspor	11	6	1	4	20	13	19
Rizespor	11	5	3	3	14	8	18
Samsunspor	11	5	2	4	17	14	17
Besiktas	11	4	3	4	22	16	15
Ankaraspor	11	4	3	4	16	16	15
Gaziantepspor	11	4	3	4	13	13	15
Genclerbirligi	11	4	2	5	12	14	14
Konyaspor	11	3	5	3	19	22	14
Ankaragucu	11	3	3	5	8	14	12
Diyarbakirspor	11	3	3	5	10	18	12
Kayserispor	11	2	2	7	12	24	8
Istanbulspor	11	1	3	7	8	20	6
Sebatspor	11	0	4	7	12	28	4
Sakaryaspor	11	1	1	9	7	25	4

UKRAINE

Oct 18: Illichivets 3 Zakarpattya 0.
Oct 24: Zakarpattya 1 Obolon 2; Chornomorets 1 Vorskla 0; Dynamo 2 Borysfen 0; Tavriya 1 Kryvbas 2; Volyn 1 Arsenal 0; Illichivets 2 Metalurh Z 2; Shakhtar 0 Metalist 1.
Oct 25: Dnipro 3 Metalurh D 3.
Oct 29: Arsenal 5 Illichivets 2; Kryvbas 1 Shakhtar 2; Metalurh Z 0 Dynamo 2.
Oct 30: Borysfen 0 Chornomorets 1; Metalurh D 2 Tavriya 1; Metalist 1 Zakarpattya 0; Obolon 1 Volyn 2; Vorskla 0 Dnipro 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	11	10	0	1	22	4	30
Dynamo	11	9	1	1	20	6	28
Metalurh D	11	7	2	2	19	13	23
Volyn	11	6	2	3	12	10	20
Metalist	11	5	2	4	14	13	17
Illichivets	11	4	4	3	20	16	16
Kryvbas	11	4	4	3	11	10	16
Dnipro	11	4	3	4	15	17	15
Chornomorets	11	4	2	5	9	9	14
Arsenal	11	3	4	4	12	16	13
Obolon	11	2	4	5	6	9	10
Metalurh Z	11	1	7	3	8	14	10
Zakarpattya	11	2	3	6	8	14	9
Vorskla	11	2	2	7	5	13	8
Tavriya	11	1	3	7	8	15	6
Borysfen	11	0	5	6	5	15	5

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, October 15

Arsenal 0
Newell's Old Boys 0

Huracan 1 (Izquierdo 76)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Frutos 24, Romero 52)

Rosario Central 0
Independiente 0

Saturday, October 16

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Oberman 29)
San Lorenzo 0

Banfield 2 (Cervera 10, Palacio 33)
Olimpo 0

Estudiantes 1 (Vasquez 18)
Quilmes 1 (Alayes 69)

Instituto 2 (Jimenez 16, Raymonda 47)
Lanus 2 (Obolo 34, Graf 38)

Racing Club 1 (Barrado 56)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Valdemarin pen 15, Zarate 62)

Sunday, October 17

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Blanco 73)
Boca Juniors 0

River Plate 0
Almagro 2 (Castaño 51, Miranda 70)

Tuesday, October 19

Independiente 4 (Castillo 27, 67, Bustos Montoya 28, Insua 73)
Huracan 0

San Lorenzo 2 (Zabaleta 9, Romagnoli pen 20)
Instituto 0

Velez Sarsfield 0
Rosario Central 1 (Papa 89)

Wednesday, October 20

Almagro 0
Estudiantes 1 (Gelabert 51)

Boca Juniors 1 (Palermo 16)
Banfield 1 (Ceballos 85)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Yllana 39, Frutos 66)
Colon Santa Fe 0

Lanus 1 (Gioda 3)
River Plate 0

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Belluschi 40)
Racing Club 0

Olimpo 1 (Galvan 13)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Piriz Alvez 35)

Quilmes 2 (Lopez pen 19, Desabato 34)
Arsenal 0

Friday, October 22

Huracan 0
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Castroman 43)

Saturday, October 23

Colon Santa Fe 0
Independiente 0

Racing Club 0
Rosario Central 2 (Vitti 28, Ruben 80)

Sunday, October 24

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Perez Castro 45)
Boca Juniors 0

Arsenal 2 (Calderon 4, pen 41)
Almagro 2 (Sparapani 11, Miranda 46)

Banfield 4 (Ceballos 45, Palacio 77, 88, Amato 90)
Gimnasia LP 0

Estudiantes 5 (Gelabert 2, Carrusca 15, 43, Pavone 40, Maceratesi pen 55)
Lanus 0

Instituto 1 (Jimenez 69)
Olimpo 1 (Galvan 49)

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Marino 30, Ortega pen 35)
Quilmes 0

River Plate 1 (Ramirez og 2)
San Lorenzo 2 (Zabaleta 8, Lavezzi 69)

Friday, October 29

Quilmes 0
Racing Club 0

Saturday, October 30

Independiente 1 (Losada 55)
Banfield 3 (Palacio 23, 70, Amato 67)

Rosario Central 2 (Villa 1, Rivarola 34)
Huracan 2 (Gonzalez 19, Caggiano 78)

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Valdemarin pen 14, Cubero 82)
Colon Santa Fe 3 (Hernandez pen 9, Bedoya 25, Estevez 43)

Sunday, October 31

Almagro 1 (Miranda 63)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Boca Juniors 0
Instituto 0

Gimnasia LP 2 (Romero 41, Frutos 80)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Piriz Alvez 77)

Lanus 3 (Graf 14, 32, Iribarren 62)
Arsenal 1 (Denis 76)

Olimpo 2 (Galvan pen 32, Franco 84)
River Plate 3 (Gonzalez 5, Lopez 15, Mareque 50)

San Lorenzo 0
Estudiantes 0

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's OB	13	7	4	2	14	6	25
Velez Sarsfield	13	8	1	4	16	13	25
Estudiantes	13	6	6	1	16	6	24
River Plate	13	6	4	3	21	18	22
Boca Juniors	13	6	3	4	19	9	21
Banfield	13	5	6	2	19	11	21
San Lorenzo	13	6	3	4	18	14	21
Lanus	13	5	6	2	18	16	21
Gimnasia LP	13	6	3	4	14	16	21
Colon Santa Fe	13	5	5	3	15	11	20
Quilmes	13	5	4	4	10	11	19
Independiente	13	5	3	5	17	15	18
Almagro	13	4	6	3	10	10	18
Rosario Central	13	4	5	4	10	10	17
Arsenal	13	2	7	4	9	12	13
Argentinos Jnrs	13	3	3	7	7	11	12
Racing Club	13	3	2	8	10	15	11
Huracan	13	1	4	8	11	24	7
Instituto	13	1	4	8	9	23	7
Olimpo	13	1	3	9	10	22	6

LEADING GOALSCORERS

7 Nicolas Frutos (Gimnasia LP)
7 Rodrigo Palacio (Banfield)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

2nd stage

Oct 16: San Jose 2 Bolivar 2.
Oct 17: Oriente 3 Real Potosi 0; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Blooming 1; The Strongest 4 Union Central 1.
Oct 23: Union Central 0 Jorge Wilstermann 0.
Oct 24: Blooming 1 Oriente 2; Real Potosi 2 Bolivar 2; The Strongest 3 San Jose 0.
Oct 27: Oriente 2 Union Central 0; San Jose 2 Real Potosi 2; Jorge Wilstermann 1 The Strongest 0.
Oct 31: Blooming 4 Real Potosi 2; The Strongest 1 Oriente 0; Union Central 2 Bolivar 3; Jorge Wilstermann 1 San Jose 2.

BOLIVIA – CLOSING – 2ND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Strongest	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Oriente	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Bolivar	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
J Wilstermann	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
San Jose	4	1	2	1	6	8	5
Blooming	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Real Potosi	4	0	2	2	6	11	2
Union Central	4	0	1	3	3	9	1

BRAZIL

Oct 16: Fluminense 1 Goias 4; Vitoria 4 Vasco da Gama 1; Figueirense 2 Gremio 0; Santos 4 Ponte Preta 0.
Oct 17: Internacional 3 Botafogo 1; Flamengo 3 Criciuma 1; Sao Caetano 3 Paysandu 0; Guarani 2 Cruzeiro 0; Atletico Mineiro 0 Sao Paulo 5; Atletico Paranaense 1 Parana 1; Corinthians 0 Coritiba 0; Juventude 0 Palmeiras 2.
Oct 23: Palmeiras 3 Atletico Paranaense 1; Paysandu 4 Goias 2; Cruzeiro 0 Atletico Mineiro 3; Gremio 1 Internacional 3; Coritiba 2 Juventude 3; Botafogo 1 Vitoria 1.
Oct 24: Criciuma 2 Figueirense 1; Vasco da Gama 1 Flamengo 0; Sao Caetano 2 Fluminense 0; Guarani 0 Ponte Preta 0; Sao Paulo 1 Santos 0; Parana 1 Corinthians 2.
Oct 26: Cruzeiro 2 Gremio 0; Goias 2 Atletico Paranaense 0; Vitoria 2 Atletico Mineiro 1; Palmeiras 2 Botafogo 1.
Oct 27: Criciuma 1 Corinthians 1; Internacional 1 Guarani 3; Flamengo 1 Santos 1; Fluminense 7 Juventude 1; Ponte Preta 3 Paysandu 0; Coritiba 0 Vasco da Gama 1; Parana 2 Figueirense 1.
Oct 30: Figueirense 1 Sao Paulo 0; Gremio 2 Palmeiras 3; Botafogo 2 Cruzeiro 1; Paysandu 0 Coritiba 0; Guarani 1 Goias 1; Atletico Mineiro 2 Criciuma 2; Santos 5 Fluminense 0; Atletico Paranaense 2 Internacional 1; Corinthians 1 Vitoria 0; Juventude 1 Flamengo 0.
Oct 31: Vasco da Gama 2 Ponte Preta 2.
Nov 3: Sao Paulo 4 Sao Caetano 2.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	39	22	6	11	88	53	72
At Paranaense	39	21	9	9	73	45	72
Sao Paulo	39	20	8	11	62	36	68
Palmeiras	39	19	11	9	65	40	68
Sao Caetano	38	19	8	11	52	34	65
Juventude	39	19	8	12	54	54	65
Goias	39	18	8	13	73	61	62
Corinthians	39	16	13	10	41	44	61
Ponte Preta	39	17	6	15	36	57	58
Fluminense	39	15	11	13	57	60	56
Figueirense	39	14	12	13	49	48	54
Coritiba	39	12	15	12	41	39	51
Cruzeiro	39	14	8	17	57	63	50
Internacional	39	14	7	18	52	53	49
Vasco da Gama	39	13	10	16	56	56	49
Paysandu	39	12	11	16	48	69	47
Criciuma	39	12	9	18	52	62	45
Vitoria	39	12	7	20	62	71	43
Botafogo	39	9	16	14	53	61	43
At Mineiro	39	9	16	14	49	61	43
Flamengo	39	10	12	17	40	43	42
Parana	38	11	8	19	43	65	41
Guarani	39	8	15	16	35	48	39
Gremio	39	8	11	20	50	65	35

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 9: U de Concepcion 1 Union Espanola 0.
Oct 16: Union Espanola 3 Colo Colo 0; Puerto Montt 0 Coquimbo Unido 2; Cobresal 1 Audax Italiano 1; Huachipato 4 Rangers 0; Palestino 1 Dep Temuco 2; Dep La Serena 0 U de Concepcion 1.
Oct 17: U de Chile 2 Cobreloa 1; San Felipe 1 U Catolica 0; Everton 0 Santiago Wanderers 1.
Oct 20: Coquimbo Unido 0 San Felipe 0; Audax Italiano 3 Huachipato 0; Rangers 3 Union Espanola 2; Dep Temuco 3 Dep La Serena 3; Santiago Wanderers 2 Palestino 0; Colo Colo 1 Puerto Montt 0; Cobreloa 1 Cobresal 1.
Oct 21: U Catolica 5 Everton 0.
Oct 23: Audax Italiano 2 Cobreloa 2; U de Chile 2 Dep Temuco 2.
Oct 24: Cobresal 3 U de Concepcion 2; Huachipato 0 Union Espanola 1; Palestino 0 U Catolica 3; Puerto Montt 3 Rangers 0; Dep La Serena 3 Santiago Wanderers 2; San Felipe 1 Colo Colo 5; Everton 2 Coquimbo Unido 0.
Oct 27: Dep Temuco 3 Cobresal 3.
Oct 28: Cobreloa 2 Huachipato 0; U de Concepcion 1 Audax Italiano 3; Colo Colo 1 Everton 1; Union Espanola 0 Puerto Montt 0.
Oct 29: Santiago Wanderers 1 U de Chile 2; U Catolica 4 Dep La Serena 1; Coquimbo Unido 2 Palestino 2; Rangers 1 San Felipe 1.
Nov 2: Huachipato 3 Puerto Montt 1; Palestino 2 Colo Colo 3.
Nov 3: Cobresal 5 Santiago Wanderers 1; Cobreloa 2 U de Concepcion 3; San Felipe 0 Union Espanola 2; Everton 4 Rangers 0; Dep La Serena 2 Coquimbo Unido 1; Audax Italiano 4 Dep Temuco 0.

CHILE – CLOSING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Audax Italiano	16	7	5	4	31	21	26
Cobreloa	16	6	6	4	33	22	24
Union Espanola	16	5	5	6	22	19	20
Dep La Serena	16	4	4	8	22	35	16

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Felipe*	16	5	5	6	17	24	17
Puerto Montt*	16	5	4	7	15	19	16
Coquimbo Unido	15	3	6	6	19	23	15
Sant Wanderers	16	3	2	11	21	34	11

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	15	8	5	2	25	16	29
U de Chile*	14	8	4	2	24	13	25
Dep Temuco	16	4	8	4	30	32	20
Palestino	16	5	3	8	20	26	18
Rangers	16	3	6	7	17	30	15

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U Catolica	15	9	4	2	32	18	31
Cobresal	16	7	4	5	31	26	25
U de Concepcion	15	7	3	5	20	16	24
Everton	16	6	4	6	19	24	22
Huachipato	16	6	2	8	24	24	20

**3pts deducted for non-payment of players*

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 15: America 1 Millonarios 0.
Oct 16: At Junior 1 Once Caldas 4; Chico 1 Tulua 2.
Oct 17: Dep Pasto 1 Bucaramanga 1; At National 3 Dep Cali 1; Pereira 1 Envigado 0; Tolima 1 Magdalena 0; Quindio 1 Indep Medellin 0; Indep Santa Fe 2 At Huila 1.
Oct 23: Bucaramanga 1 At Nacional 0.
Oct 24: Magdalena 1 Millonarios 0; Envigado 1 Tolima 2; Dep Cali 2 Pereira 0; Tulua 0 Dep Pasto 0; Indep Medellin 1 Chico 0; Once Caldas 6 Quindio 1; At Huila 1 At Junior 1; Indep Santa Fe 0 America 2.
Oct 27: Tolima 2 Dep Cali 1; Quindio 2 At Huila 0; Chico 1 Once Caldas 0; Dep Pasto 1 Indep Medellin 2; At Nacional 2 Tulua 0; Pereira 1 Bucaramanga 2; Millonarios 3 Envigado 0; America 3 Magdalena 0; At Junior 2 Indep Santa Fe 0.
Oct 30: Envigado 4 Magdalena 0; At Junior 2 America 2.
Oct 31: Indep Santa Fe 2 Quindio 3; Once Caldas 1 Dep Pasto 0; Dep Cali 2 Millonarios 0; Bucaramanga 3 Tolima 1; Tulua 1 Pereira 1; Indep Medellin 0 At Nacional 1; At Huila 0 Chico 1.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	17	12	3	2	30	13	39
Tolima	17	10	3	4	27	19	33
Bucaramanga	17	9	4	4	21	15	31
Dep Cali	17	9	2	6	23	16	29
Once Caldas	17	8	4	5	30	17	28
Indep Medellin	17	8	4	5	23	12	28
At Junior	17	7	6	4	25	20	27
At Nacional	17	8	3	6	22	18	27
Envigado	17	7	5	5	25	19	26
Indep Santa Fe	17	7	3	7	23	22	24
Quindio	17	7	3	7	20	28	24
Tulua	17	5	4	8	14	19	19
At Huila	17	5	3	9	19	22	18
Chico	17	4	5	8	13	22	17
Magdalena	17	5	1	11	10	26	16
Dep Pasto	17	2	8	7	7	14	14
Millonarios	17	3	4	10	13	27	13
Pereira	17	3	3	11	8	24	12

ECUADOR

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Oct 23: Dep Cuenca 3 El Nacional 0.
Oct 24: Aucas 2 Olmedo 1; Barcelona 0 LDU Quito 2.
Oct 31: El Nacional 3 Barcelona 3; LDU Quito 1 Aucas 0; Olmedo 0 Dep Cuenca 1.
Nov 3: Barcelona 3 Olmedo 1; Dep Cuenca 2 Aucas 1.

ECUADOR – CHAMP'SHIP PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cuenca	3	3	0	0	6	1	9.5 [0.5]
LDU Quito	2	2	0	0	3	0	7 [1]
Barcelona	3	1	1	1	6	6	6 [2]
Aucas	3	1	0	2	3	4	5 [2]
El Nacional	2	0	1	1	3	6	1.5 [0.5]
Olmedo	3	0	0	3	2	6	1 [1]

Bonus points from opening and closing championships in brackets

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 16: Nacional 1 Cerro Porteno 3.
Oct 17: Sportivo Luqueno 2 Guarani 2; Sport Colombia 0 Tacuary 1; Olimpia 1 12 de Octubre 2; Libertad 4 Sol de America 1.
Oct 23: Guarani 1 Libertad 3.
Oct 24: Sol de America 1 Sport Colombia 2; 12 de Octubre 0 Cerro Porteno 0; Tacuary 0 Nacional 0; Olimpia 1 Sportivo Luqueno 2.
Oct 27: Sport Colombia 2 Guarani 2; Nacional 1 Sol de America 3; Libertad 1 Olimpia 0; Sportivo Luqueno 1 12 de Octubre 1.
Oct 31: Sol de America 1 Cerro Porteno 2; 12 de Octubre 1 Tacuary 1; Guarani 1 Nacional 2; Olimpia 0 Sport Colombia 2.
Nov 1: Sportivo Luqueno 3 Libertad 1.
Nov 3: Cerro Porteno 2 Tacuary 0.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	13	8	2	3	17	8	26
Libertad	13	8	1	4	20	15	25
Nacional	13	5	4	4	20	16	19
Sport Colombia	13	5	3	5	18	18	18
Sportivo Luqueno	13	4	6	3	16	16	18
12 de Octubre	13	3	6	4	15	16	15
Tacuary	13	2	9	2	7	8	15
Guarani	13	2	7	4	15	22	13
Olimpia	13	3	3	7	15	19	12
Sol de America	13	3	3	7	15	20	12

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 10: Alianza Atletico 2 Dep Wanka 0.
Oct 16: Estudiantes 1 Alianza Atletico 3; Cienciano 6 Sport Boys 2; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Union Huaral 2; Universidad CV 0 Universitario 0.
Oct 17: Sporting Cristal 2 Melgar 1; Alianza Lima 4 Deportivo Wanka 0.
Oct 20: Melgar 4 Universidad CV 1; Union Huaral 3 Dep Wanka 1; Universidad SMP 1 Alianza Lima 3; Estudiantes 0 Sporting Cristal 1; Universitario 3 Coronel Bolognesi 2; Cienciano 2 At Universidad 2.
Oct 21: Sport Boys 1 Alianza Atletico 1.
Oct 23: Alianza Lima 2 Estudiantes 0.
Oct 24: Alianza Atletico 0 Universitario 0; Sporting Cristal 1 Union Huaral 0; At Universidad 2 Sport Boys 2; Dep Wanka 0 Melgar 2; Coronel Bolognesi 0 Universidad SMP 0; Universidad CV 0 Cienciano 1.
Oct 27: Estudiantes 3 Union Huaral 3; Sport Boys 1 Alianza Lima 0; Universidad SMP 2 Dep Wanka 1; Melgar 2 At Universidad 0; Universitario 3 Sporting Cristal 4; Universidad CV 1 Alianza Atletico 1;
Oct 30: Coronel Bolognesi 4 Sport Boys 1; At Universidad 2 Universidad CV 1.
Oct 31: Sporting Cristal 1 Universidad SMP 0; Cienciano 1 Alianza Atletico 0; Estudiantes 2 Dep Wanka 1; Union Huaral 2 Melgar 0; Universitario 0 Alianza Lima 0.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal	12	10	1	1	24	12	31
Universitario	12	5	6	1	16	12	21
Union Huaral	12	5	5	2	17	14	20
Cienciano	11	5	3	3	18	11	18
Melgar	12	5	3	4	23	20	18
Alianza Atletico	12	5	3	4	14	11	18
Alianza Lima	12	4	4	4	13	8	16
Universidad SMP	11	4	4	3	13	11	16
At Universidad	11	3	4	4	14	15	13
Universidad CV	12	3	4	5	10	15	13
Sport Boys	12	3	3	6	12	18	12
Estudiantes	12	3	2	7	13	19	11
Dep Wanka	12	3	1	8	9	24	10
Coronel Bolognesi	11	1	3	7	11	17	6

URUGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 16: Penarol 3 Rentistas 1; Defensor 0 Danubio 1.
Oct 17: Nacional 1 Cerrito 0; Liverpool 3 Plaza 1; Fenix 0 Wanderers 0.
Oct 23: Liverpool 1 Danubio 0.
Oct 24: Penarol 1 Nacional 2; Plaza 1 Defensor 2; Rentistas 1 Fenix 1; Wanderers 0 Cerrito 3.
Oct 26: Plaza 3 Cerrito 1.
Oct 31: Wanderers 1 Nacional 3; Danubio 2 Penarol 0; Defensor 5 Fenix 1; Rentistas 3 Liverpool 0.

URUGUAY – OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	9	6	3	0	17	6	21
Defensor	9	6	2	1	18	7	20
Danubio	9	5	3	1	11	5	18
Liverpool	9	3	4	2	13	15	13
Penarol	9	3	3	3	16	14	12
Rentistas	9	3	2	4	13	13	11
Plaza	9	1	4	4	8	12	7
Cerrito	9	2	1	6	8	14	7
Wanderers	9	1	4	4	7	13	7
Fenix	9	0	4	5	7	19	4

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 16: UA Maracaibo 0 Dep Tachira 0.
Oct 17: Carabobo 0 Caracas 1; Estudiantes 2 ItalMaracaibo 1; Ital-Chacao 1 Trujillanos 2; Mineros Guayana 1 Monagas 4.
Oct 23: Caracas 1 Trujillanos 0.
Oct 24: Monagas 2 Estudiantes 0; Dep Tachira 1 Mineros Guayana 0; Carabobo 1 UA Maracaibo 1; ItalMaracaibo 1 Ital-Chacao 0.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas	11	6	4	1	15	10	22
Trujillanos	11	6	2	3	11	9	20
Dep Tachira	11	5	2	4	12	13	17
Mineros Guayana	11	4	4	3	18	13	16
UA Maracaibo	11	3	6	2	11	8	15
ItalMaracaibo	11	4	3	4	13	13	15
Estudiantes	11	3	4	4	17	20	13
Carabobo	11	2	6	3	13	13	12
Monagas	11	2	4	5	10	15	10
Ital-Chacao	11	1	3	7	12	18	6

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 16: Jaguares 2 Necaxa 2; Cruz Azul 1 Toluca 3; Dorados 0 Atlante 1; Tigres 7 Veracruz 1; Atlas 1 Pachuca 2.
Oct 17: America 0 Pumas UNAM 3; Puebla 0 Morelia 3; Tecos UAG 3 Monterrey 2; Santos 4 Guadalajara 1.
Oct 20: Toluca 0 Atlas 2; Morelia 2 Jaguares 1; Guadalajara 3 Puebla 1; Veracruz 3 Cruz Azul 2; Necaxa 2 Monterrey 3; Pachuca 1 Dorados 0; Tigres 2 Tecos UAG 2.
Oct 21: Atlante 1 America 0; Pumas UNAM 2 Santos 1.
Oct 23: Jaguares 0 Guadalajara 0; Monterrey 2 Morelia 1; Cruz Azul 1 Tigres 1; Dorados 0 Toluca 1; Atlas 2 Veracruz 0.
Oct 24: America 1 Pachuca 1; Puebla 2 Pumas UNAM 3; Santos 2 Atlante 1; Tecos UAG 0 Necaxa 1.
Oct 30: Toluca 0 America 1; Cruz Azul 5 Tecos UAG 2; Guadalajara 1 Monterrey 0; Tigres 1 Atlas 3; Veracruz 2 Dorados 1.
Oct 31: Pachuca 2 Santos 1; Pumas UNAM 2 Jaguares 1; Atlante 2 Puebla 1; Morelia 1 Necaxa 5.
Nov 3: Puebla 1 Pachuca 1; Santos 0 Toluca 1; Necaxa 1 Guadalajara 2; America 1 Veracruz 1; Morelia 2 Tecos UAG 0; Atlas 3 Cruz Azul 3; Dorados 3 Tigres 3.
Nov 4: Jaguares 0 Atlante 0; Monterrey 1 Pumas UNAM 1.

MEXICO – OPENING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas UNAM	14	7	1	6	23	23	22
Atlante	14	6	2	6	18	25	20
Morelia	14	5	3	6	22	27	18
Tecos UAG	14	4	3	7	12	22	15
America	14	3	4	7	13	21	13
Dorados	14	3	3	8	20	27	12

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	14	7	3	4	29	21	24
Toluca	14	7	2	5	19	14	23
Guadalajara	14	6	4	4	25	18	22
Tigres	14	5	5	4	32	24	20
Puebla	14	5	5	4	17	18	20
Cruz Azul	14	3	3	8	25	32	12

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Veracruz	14	10	1	3	24	21	31
Pachuca	14	7	5	2	22	14	26
Monterrey	14	7	3	4	31	22	24
Necaxa	14	5	2	7	22	20	17
Santos	14	4	3	7	18	17	15
Jaguares	14	3	6	5	17	23	15

LEADING GOALSCORERS
12 Guillermo Franco (Monterrey)
10 Roberto de Pinho (Atlas)

UNITED STATES

Oct 9: DC United 1 New England Revolution 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Dallas Burn 0; MetroStars 1 Columbus Crew 1; San Jose Earthquakes 0 Kansas City Wizards 0.
Oct 16: Colorado Rapids 1 Columbus Crew 1; Dallas Burn 2 San Jose Earthquakes 2; Kansas City Wizards 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0; New England Revolution 2 Chicago Fire 1.
Oct 17: DC United 3 MetroStars 2.

USA – EASTERN CONFERENCE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Columbus Crew	30	12	13	5	40	32	49
DC United	30	11	9	10	43	42	42
MetroStars	30	11	7	12	47	49	40
New England	30	8	9	13	42	43	33
Chicago Fire	30	8	9	13	36	44	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City	30	14	7	9	38	30	49
LA Galaxy	30	11	10	9	42	40	43
Colorado Rapids	30	10	11	9	29	32	41
San Jose	30	9	11	10	41	35	38
Dallas Burn	30	10	6	14	34	45	36

Top four from each conference qualified for play-offs

TOP GOALSCORERS*
12 Brian Ching (San Jose Earthquakes)
12 Edward Johnson (Dallas Burn)
**League stage only*

Play-offs

Quarter-finals

Oct 22: Colorado Rapids 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
Oct 30: Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Colorado Rapids 0.
Los Angeles Galaxy 2-1 on agg

Oct 23: MetroStars 0 DC United 2.
Oct 30: DC United 2 MetroStars 0.
DC United 4-0 on agg

Oct 23: New England Revolution 1 Columbus Crew 0.
Oct 31: Columbus Crew 1 New England Revolution 1.
New England Revolution 2-1 on agg

Oct 24: San Jose Earthquakes 2 Kansas City Wizards 0.
Oct 30: Kansas City Wizards 3 San Jose Earthquakes 0.
Kansas City Wizards 3-2 on agg

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Oct 16: Africa Sports (IvC) 3 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 2; Bakili Bullets (Mwi) 1 Enyimba (Nig) 1.

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Etoile Sahel	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Enyimba	6	2	2	2	11	4	8
Africa Sports	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Bakili Bullets	6	1	3	2	5	11	6

Group B

Oct 17: Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 2 Esperance (Tun) 1; SuperSport United (SAf) 2 USM Alger (Alg) 0.

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	6	4	0	2	12	7	12
Jeanne d'Arc	6	3	2	1	8	9	11
USM Alger	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
SuperSport Utd	6	1	1	4	5	9	4

Top two from each group qualified for semi-finals

Semi-finals, 1st legs

Oct 30
Jeanne d'Arc 2 (Diarra 61, 70)
Etoile Sahel 1 (Opara 51)
HT: 0-0

Oct 31
Enyimba 1 (Fasindo 90)
Esperance 1 (Mnari 77)
HT: 0-0

AFRICAN CONFEDERATION CUP

Group A

Oct 16: Al Hilal (Sud) 2 Enugu Rangers (Nig) 1.
Oct 17: Petro Atletico (Ang) 1 Asante Kotoko (Gha) 1.
Oct 30: Al Hilal 1 Petro Atletico 0; Enugu Rangers 2 Asante Kotoko 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enugu Rangers	5	3	0	2	12	6	9
Al Hilal	5	3	0	2	6	8	9
Asante Kotoko	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Petro Atletico	5	1	1	3	5	9	4

Group B

Oct 16: Santos (SAf) 0 Cotonsport (Cam) 2.
Oct 17: Hearts of Oak (Gha) 5 Sable Batie (Cam) 1.
Oct 31: Cotonsport 1 Sable Batie 0; Santos 0 Hearts of Oak 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cotonsport	5	3	2	0	7	0	11
Hearts of Oak	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Sable Batie	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Santos	5	1	0	4	1	8	3

Group winners qualify for Final

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals, 1st legs

Oct 19
Al Ittihad (Sau) 2 (Noor 27, Al-Montasheri 87)
Chonbuk Motors (SKo) 1 (Botti 85)
HT: 1-0

Oct 20
Songnam Ilhwa Chunma (SKo) 0
Pakhtakor (Uzb) 0

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

Oct 26
Chonbuk Motors 2 (Rink 32, Botti 43)
Al Ittihad 2 (Chico pen 68, Al-Harbi 89)
HT: 2-0
Al Ittihad 4-3 on agg

Oct 27
Pakhtakor 0
Songnam Ilhwa Chunma 2 (Kim Do-hoon 37, Dudu 56)
HT: 0-1
Songnam 2-0 on agg

AFC CUP

Semi-finals

1st legs
Oct 19: Al Wahda (Syr) 1 Geylang United (Sin) 1.
Oct 20: Al Jaish (Syr) 4 Home United (Sin) 0.

2nd legs
Oct 26: Geylang United 0 Al Wahda 1 *Al Wahda 2-1 on agg.*
Oct 27: Home United 1 Al Jaish 2 *Al Jaish 6-1 on agg.*

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Oct 17: Shimizu S-Pulse 1 JEF United Ichihara 2; Cerezo Osaka 1 Vissel Kobe 2; Urawa Reds 0 Yokohama F Marinos 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Gamba Osaka 2; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; FC Tokyo 0 Jubilo Iwata 0; Albirex Niigata 1 Kashima Antlers 0; Oita Trinita 2 Tokyo Verdy 1969 3.
Oct 23: Kashiwa Reysol 1 Cerezo Osaka 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 JEF United Ichihara 2; Tokyo Verdy 1969 4 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Kashima Antlers 2 Urawa Reds 3; Yokohama F Marinos 2 FC Tokyo 1; Vissel Kobe 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2.
Oct 24: Gamba Osaka 3 Oita Trinita 1; Jubilo Iwata 3 Albirex Niigata 1.
Oct 30: Kashima Antlers 3 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Oita Trinita 2 Vissel Kobe 0; Cerezo Osaka 0 Urawa Reds 2; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Jubilo Iwata 2.
Oct 31: Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 FC Tokyo 1; JEF United Ichihara 2 Gamba Osaka 2.

JAPAN – SECOND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urawa Reds	11	9	1	1	32	12	28
Gamba Osaka	11	6	3	2	29	17	21
JEF United	11	6	3	2	16	15	21
Albirex Niigata	10	5	2	3	20	19	17
Yokohama FM	11	4	4	3	16	14	16
Kashima Antlers	11	4	3	4	16	15	15
Grampus Eight	10	4	3	3	16	15	15
Tokyo Verdy	11	5	0	6	19	21	15
FC Tokyo	11	3	4	4	13	13	13
Jubilo Iwata	11	3	4	4	17	19	13
Vissel Kobe	11	3	3	5	21	22	12
Sanfrecce H	11	2	6	3	17	18	12
Shimizu S-Pulse	11	3	1	7	12	18	10
Oita Trinita	10	3	1	6	11	19	10
Kashiwa Reysol	10	1	6	3	9	16	9
Cerezo Osaka	11	2	2	7	18	29	8

SOUTH KOREA

SECOND STAGE

Oct 6: Chunnam 1 Gwangju 0; Bucheon 1 Daejeon 0; Seoul 1 Incheon 0; Busan 0 Suwon 1; Ulsan 1 Chonbuk 0.
Oct 9: Daegu 1 Pohang 0.
Oct 13: Chonbuk 0 Daegu 2.
Oct 16: Incheon 2 Busan 2; Seoul 0 Daejeon 1; Gwangju 0 Bucheon 1; Pohang 1 Songnam 1; Suwon 1 Ulsan 0.
Oct 30: Ulsan 2 Incheon 1.
Oct 31: Bucheon 1 Chunnam 1; Seoul 1 Gwangju 0; Busan 2 Daejeon 0; Daegu 0 Suwon 1; Songnam 1 Chonbuk 0.
Nov 3: Incheon 1 Daegu 1; Daejeon 1 Ulsan 3; Gwangju 1 Busan 0; Chunnam 0 Seoul 0; Chonbuk 1 Pohang 0; Suwon 1 Songnam 2.

SOUTH KOREA – SECOND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ulsan	8	5	1	2	9	5	16
Suwon	9	5	1	3	9	7	16
Seoul	9	4	3	2	7	4	15
Chunnam	8	3	3	2	7	5	12
Chonbuk	9	3	3	3	6	5	12
Songnam	8	3	3	2	8	8	12
Daegu	8	3	2	3	8	7	11
Busan	9	2	4	3	8	9	10
Bucheon	8	2	4	2	7	9	10
Incheon	8	2	3	3	9	9	9
Gwangju	8	2	3	3	3	4	9
Daejeon	8	2	1	5	5	11	7
Pohang	8	1	3	4	3	6	6

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